

The Christian.

ST. JOHN. N. B., JULY 1897.

EDITORIAL.

ENDURANCE.

"For he endured as seeing him who is invisible."—Hebrews xi. 27.

Endurance is as essential to success in an undertaking as is wisdom to plan and ability to labor for its accomplishment. It was a sight of the invisible One which caused Moses to endure all he did and suffered. A man meets a friend and says, "I am just now in a strait. Will you lend me one hundred dollars for a month. I can easily return it in that time." This friend has that money laid by to meet a bill due in two months. He hands him the money in full confidence that it will be returned in time to meet his own bill. God has taught men to do business in this way—to endure loss as seeing the unseen. The farmer endures hardship and the loss of the grain he sows as seeing the invisible crop. The merchant endures the present loss of his goods as seeing in due time the unseen returns.

To endure is to suffer; it is more. To worry and chafe over our suffering, and to blame others for them is not to endure. To suffer willingly, patiently, heroically and for the good of others, is to endure. Brutes suffer and so do brutish men, but to endure is manly and Christ-like. It is noble to press forward in the path of duty regardless of obstacles.

Let us notice—

I.—*What Moses endured.*

II.—*How he endured.*

I. What Moses endured. Blessed is the man that endureth temptations, for when he is tried he shall receive a crown of life. Moses was tempted by Pharaoh's offer of Egyptian wealth and an Egyptian crown. Pharaoh having but one daughter, her adopted son Moses was heir apparent to the crown. But he refused to be called the Son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, etc.

See the man of Moses' beauty, accomplishments and power, at an age when ambition burns most fiercely in the human breast, deliberately turn from the pleasures and the throne of the greatest nation on earth, to share the afflictions of the poorest and most despised nation, choosing to be a slave rather than a king. Moses did this.

But he often endured the ill-will of his brethren—the hardest of all to endure. How many exclaim, "Save me from my friends. If I must be pierced, let the hand of an avowed enemy hold the dagger." But Moses suffered from his own. At one time he was upbraided for taking too much upon himself. At another, they were ready to stone him for leading them away from the flesh-pots of Egypt to starve in the wilderness, but he endured it all. Whatever his brethren did, he strove to be faithful in all his house. No

doubt he was sorely tempted to leave the people for whom he had suffered so much, but he bore with them, especially when informed that their conduct was more against God than against him. His fidelity to God and his cause would not suffer him to turn from it or them however ill his treatment. He stood by his brethren, pled for them, so urgently that if they were destroyed his wish was to share their fate. He seemed to feel that if they were cut off his life would be useless, and wished to live or die with his brethren. He set a noble example to God's servants when tempted to forsake his people and his work.

Those who enter the divine service half-heartedly are disposed to regard it as a conditional service, and simply vow to do the will of God only if others do their part. If these are our resolutions, we will find or think we find that others are not doing their part, and by degrees will turn our backs on the dear friend who bought us with his own blood. Moses endured not because he found others faithful, but—

II. He endured as seeing him who is invisible. It was that sight which first started him on his course, and the same sight kept him faithful. Various and wise were the means by which God showed his ancient servants the invisible One. Abel saw him die in the sacrifice he offered. Abraham saw him rise again when God spared his beloved Isaac. Moses saw him in the Pascal lamb and in various ways became so intimate with him that he esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt, for he had respect to the recompense of the reward. He told the nation that the Lord their God would raise up from among themselves a prophet like him whom they would be bound to hear in all things. The foresight of that great prophet is the secret of Moses' remarkable endurance. It was easy for Moses to refuse the honors and pleasures of sin when he held communion with him who gave up the glory of heaven to become a homeless outcast to befriend and save guilty men. It made it easy to endure the displeasure of Moses' brethren when he remembered Jesus coming unto his own and his own receiving him not. Being in the confidence and partnership of him who endured the contradiction of sinners against himself, who endured the cross, despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of God, made Moses a happy man as well as a suffering man. He humbled himself and God exalted him and his songs of triumph before his death take high rank among the sweet melodies of earth and heaven.

Along with Moses we see in this beautiful chapter a whole cloud of witnesses to God's faithfulness and power, and while we count them happy who endured we should remember our duty and our superior privileges. The promise he made to them he has fulfilled to us in sending Jesus into the world so that we can read plainly the history of our Bro-

ther and our Saviour. While earnestly "looking unto Jesus" and seeking his Holy Spirit, he will give wisdom to direct us in his work and power to endure all that may come against us for his sake, his promise and presence can disarm every foe and can make of every intended obstacle an instrument of helpful discipline and a stepping stone to glorious victory. May it be our happy lot ere long to stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God and sing the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.—(Rev. xv. 2, 3, 4.)

Original Contributions.

LOYALTY—PAST AND PRESENT.

E. B. BARNES.

The comparatively few lapses from the faith on the part of the ministry in the past, show that we have been eminently loyal to our plea. The number of those who yielded to the appeals of strange voices and went from us may almost be counted on our fingers—a fact which shows that the genius of our movement compels loyalty within, and as a result we are enabled to present a united front to the world. The teaching of eighty years has made us sensitive on this subject. We have come to feel that loyalty is one of the supreme conditions of service in our ranks. From the beginning, the guardians of our peace have signalled every act of disloyalty on the part of the ministry, have exposed the dangers, strengthened the things that remained, have helped the erring brother to a more congenial field while the majority consoled themselves with the thought, that the people to whom our departed brother went gained as little as we lost, and in a short time we proceeded as if nothing serious had happened. The same is true of individuals and congregations. When a disloyal congregation appears it amounts to a sensation, so rare are such occurrences among us.

But fortunately we have reached a period where these occasional losses open our eyes to dangers, and the motives to disloyalty are lessening every day. We can neither be betrayed nor argued out of existence, and a body of people great enough to compel the respect of the religious world, need only consider how to enlist every faculty of its large membership in order to go on to certain victory. It is at the beginning of war that men play the traitor and seek the stronger side—not when the air is rending with shouts of victory. To be disloyal then, is madness; and in a great religious body advancing with invincible tread, loyalty is scarcely a grace sufficient for eulogy. Every day we are