

## The Family Circle.

### THE EVERLASTING ARMS.

One of the sweetest passages in the Bible is this one: "Underneath are the everlasting arms." It is not often preached from, because it is felt to be so much richer and more touching than any thing we ministers can say about it. But what a vivid idea it gives of the divine support! The first idea of infancy is of resting in arms which maternal love never allows to become weary. Sick room experiences confirm the impression, when we have seen a feeble mother or sister lifted from the bed of pain by the stronger ones of the household. In the case of our heavenly Father, the arms are felt, but not seen. The invisible secret support comes to the soul in its hours of weakness or trouble; for God knoweth our feebleness; he remembers that we are but dust.—*Dr. T. L. Cuyler.*

### THE POWER OF HUMAN SYMPATHY.

An elder suddenly lost his loved companion. She was a general favorite in the church and much respected in the community. Her departure stirred every heart. The tear flowed freely. Husband and wife spoke more kindly to one another, and secretly asked, "How would it have been had we been the separated ones? How would it have been if our little ones had been left without a mother?" Associates of many years standing were saddened and dismayed at the broken circle. On every side came tokens of love and esteem for the departed, and of sympathy for the smitten friend and brother. A more tenderly moved, or more responsive, community could hardly be found.

What power there is in affliction to stir the human heart! When God takes away the loved, the useful and the honored, what sadness and grief are felt, and what testimonials to the influence of goodness and worth are shown! One of the many uses of bereavement is to show that we are akin, and to evoke latent appreciation and interest. Said a sorely-trying Christian, "What comfort there is in the sympathy of friends!" There are constant occasions for its display, and he of a Christ-like spirit will be ever ready to give it full and hearty expression.—*Phil. Pres.*

### THE LONELINESS OF AGE.

The loneliness of age! How few think of this, and treat with tenderness and consideration those who have outlived their generation, and whose early companions and friends have been taken from them? Unable to engage in the activities of life, they are no longer brought into contact and sympathy with those around them, and no tie of common interest and mutual dependence binds them together.

They necessarily, to a great extent, live in a world of their own, with which those around them are not familiar. The communings of their hearts are with the scenes of the past and the companions of other years who have long ago passed away. Lover and friends have been taken from them, and their acquaintances laid in darkness. The forms they admired and loved are gone, the eyes that looked into theirs with the tenderest affection are sightless, and the voices that cheered and stirred their souls have long been silent. Their early world of hope and joy has become a desolation, and they sit in silence contemplating the ruin that has been wrought. They are

"Only waiting till the shadows  
Are a little longer grown."

to pass on to the reunion that awaits them, and the glad greetings of those they love.

Who would not do what he can to cheer the loneliness of the aged, to smooth their pathway, and comfort them in their declining years!—*The Churchman.*

### THE BIBLE'S PROMISES.

The Bible nowhere promises us exemption from trials. It does not assure us that we shall not go into the furnace, nor into the deep waters, but it does promise that the fire shall not consume us and the waters shall not overflow us. In the midst of the trial it shall still be well with us. By our side in the furnace there shall be One who is like the Son of God, and we shall come out without even the smell of fire on our garments.

It is not said that Christians shall not have extraordinary trials. Christianity develops manhood; it vastly enlarges the sphere of life. It gives a broader surface across which the winds of adversity may sweep. It gives greater possibilities of enjoyment; and these make greater trials certain. A Christian man is higher, and deeper, and broader than other men are. He is more fully developed in all his capacities both for joy and sorrow.

Christ suffered unspeakably more than any other man who ever lived could suffer. He had in himself all the nobleness of man and all the gentleness of woman; he had vaster capacities of suffering than other men possess. Stoical indifference to pain is an evidence of a coarse and brutal nature. To feel, and yet to do and dare, is to be truly noble.—*ScL.*

### DRAW ON ME FOR WHAT YOU NEED.

This was the message a father sent to his son, who had fallen into financial difficulties, and knew not what to do or how to extricate himself. His father in some way learned of the perplexity of his son, and at once telegraphed him: "Draw on me for what you need," and the words brought peace to his heart. He knew his father meant what he said, and he set out for the bank and drew upon his father for all that he required.

And does not our heavenly Father look upon us in our need? Has he not given us an invitation to come to him? Has he not revealed himself as a present help in every time of trouble? And has not the apostle said to his brethren, "My God shall supply all your need?" Why, then, do we go moaning and anxious, distressed and disturbed? Why do we turn to this one and that one, only to be baffled and buffeted and refused? Why do we not look to God who shall supply all our need according to his riches in glory by Jesus Christ?

He is able to fill our hearts with peace and our hands with blessings. He is able to turn aside the arrows of our foes. He has given us a shield by which we may quench every fiery dart of Satan; and he has promised to hide us in the secret of his pavilion from the strife of tongues, and beneath the shadow of his wing from all the assaults of our enemies. Why not draw on him? He is able and He is willing. Every promise he has made is an invitation, every providence is an encouragement. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."