

der a strong obligation to contribute for the Gospel's sake. Religious privilege cheaply enjoyed can scarcely be said to be enjoyed at all: that which cost us little is considered little worth. The rule of our Lord to His disciples is, "Freely we have received, freely give." If the free-giving be withheld, the free-receiving is absolutely of little profit. There is also that blessed saying of Christ, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Certain it is, that there cannot be a selfish enjoyment of Gospel blessings. The grace of God in the heart is a self-devoting power, prompting to love and good works.

COMFORT IN SORROW.

The day of death is a day of sorrow, parting, and desolation; and the world is full of such sorrow, and has been ever since sin entered and death commenced its reign. There are mourners going about the streets; and there are children who sigh in the sadness of their orphanage: there are mothers weeping for their children and refusing to be comforted because they are not; yet in all this world-wide sorrow, there are consolations, for in the bitter cup God hath mingled love, and mercy and blessing.

When we are called to part with those we love, we must not think merely of the loneliness of our own desolate hearts, but we must consider their condition, and find comfort in Christian hope. When our friends are taken from us they are taken from the many burdens that they bore; from the world of bitterness, and anxiety, and distress. Sometimes the night that brings to us a grief that breaks our heart, brings to them the most calm, sweet repose they have known for many years. At last they have rest

from their labors, no more tortured by disease, no more racked by pain, no more panting for the vital breath, no more burdened with anxieties, and oppressed with woes,—all is now peace, and there is only rest and joy in store for them.

Sometimes our little ones are taken from us, and we mourn. But we must not forget that they are taken from a world of sorrow, from the many evils to come, from pains, bereavements, and disappointments, from temptation, and sin, and shame. How many there are, who, having lived long years on earth, have in the days of their anguish and their sin, looked back and wished that in early life they had been laid to rest in a silent grave! Then Job, the man of God, said: Why died I not from the womb? and lamented that he had lived to suffer the ills that encompassed him, and that, he had not rather been carried in infancy to the quiet grave, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest. But God had blessings in store for Job, so rich and full as to make him forget the sorrows that were past. He also has blessings for us, and the life he gives us in our opportunity to receive them.

Not only are our little ones, when cut down by death, saved from much affliction, and from many griefs which we would willingly escape, but our hope concerning them is good. 'Of such is the kingdom of heaven.' They are, as they were when Jesus was on earth, the objects of his special care and tender love. And as by Adam all die so by Christ shall all be made alive. The children long held in death's captivity 'shall come again from the land of the enemy,' they 'shall come again to their own border,' and enter with joy the kingdom of our God. The patient toil of the wearied mother is not in vain. Her anxiety and travail her days of weariness and her nights of watching, her agonies, and tears, and prayers are not in vain.