

## Fragment Basket.

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**STRONG CHARACTER.**—Strength of character consists of two things—power of will, and power of self-restraint. It requires two things, therefore, for its existence—strong feelings, and strong command over them. Now it is here we make a great mistake; we mistake strong feelings for strong character. A man who bears all before him, before whose frown domestics tremble, and whose bursts of fury make the children of the household quake—because he has his will obeyed and his own way in all things, we call him a strong man. The truth is, that is the weak man; it is his passions that are strong; he, mastered by them, is weak. You must measure the strength of a man by the power of the feelings he subdues, not by the power of those which subdue him. And hence, composure is very often the highest result of strength. Did we never see a man receive a flagrant insult, and only grow a little pale, and then reply quietly? That is a man spiritually strong. Or did we never see a man in anguish stand as if carved out of solid rock, mastering himself? Or one bearing a hopeless daily trial remain silent, and never tell the world what cankers his home peace? That is strength. He who with strong passions remained chaste; he who keenly sensitive, with manly power of indignation in him, can be provoked, and yet restrain himself and forgive—these are the strong men, the spiritual heroes.—*Rev. F. W. Robertson.*

**GOD RECONCILED IN CHRIST.**—When you look through a red glass, the whole heavens appear bloody, but through pure, uncolored glass you receive the clear light that is so refreshing and comfortable to behold. When sin unpardoned is between, and we look on God through that, we can perceive nothing but anger and enmity in his countenance; but make Christ our glorious Redeemer, the medium, and through him, as clear transparent glass, the beams of God's favorable countenance shine in upon the soul. The Father cannot look upon his well-beloved Son but graciously and pleasingly. God looks on us out of Christ, sees us rebels, and fit to be condemned; we look on God as being just and powerful to punish us; but when Christ is between, God looks on us in him justified, and we look on God in him as pacified, and see the smiles of his favorable countenance. Take Christ out, all is terrible; interpose him, all is full of peace.—*Leighton.*

**THE HUMAN HEART.**—I once did not imagine that the heart of man had been so unsearchable as it is. I am less charitable and less uncharitable than once I was. I find more things in wicked men that may counterfeit and make a fair show of piety; and more ways, that the remaining corruption of the godly may make them appear like carnal men, formalists and dead hypocrites, than once I knew. The longer I live, the less I wonder that God challenges it as His prerogative to try the hearts of men, and directs that this business be let alone till harvest. I desire to adore the wisdom of God, and His goodness to me and my fellow-creatures, that He has not committed this great business into the hands of such a poor, weak, and dim-sighted creature, one of so much blindness, pride, partiality, prejudice, and deceitfulness of heart; but has committed it into the hands of one infinitely fitter for it; and has made it His prerogative.—*President Edwards.*

**TIME'S HANDBREADTH.**—Brother your day-task is wearing short; your hour glass of this span length and handbreadth of life will quickly pass; and therefore, take order and course with matters between you and Christ, before it come to open pleading. There are no quarters to be had of Christ in open judgment. I know that ye see your thread wearing short, and that there are not many inches to the thread's end. Therefore lose not time!—*Rutherford.*