

Friendly Endeavor

Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church
(Quakers)

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A FRIENDLY ENDEAVOR

VOLUME III.

SEPTEMBER, 1920

NUMBER 3

THE VALUE OF HARD PLACES.

By A. B. Simpson.

1. Trials are valuable in revealing to us ourselves, and showing us our insufficiencies and failures. They are God's great blasting processes in the work of spiritual excavation, and which must precede the higher work of building up the life and character. We never know what graces and qualities we possess until the test comes, and then the faith and courage that glowed with such a flame in the moment of enthusiasm and inspiration finds its true level, and the soul is thrown back in its nothingness and helplessness upon Christ alone to find in Him its All in all.

This was the meaning of Jacob's trials, to bring him to the end of self. This was the purpose of Job's afflictions, to slay his self-righteous confidence. This was the blessing that came from Peter's fall, that it broke his pride and self-sufficiency, and sent him forth to lean upon his Lord and find his strength outside himself in Christ alone. This is why the Lord still tries you to convince you thoroughly that your estimate of your own strength is utterly false and exaggerated, and to bring you to that place where it will be truly, "Not I, but Christ that liveth in me."

2. They help us next to know the resources of God. It is only under difficult circumstances that we know His all-sufficiency. Israel must first stand still and next behold the salvation of God. When they ceased from their acting God revealed His power. And so He tells them that the reason He led them through the wilderness, and exposed them to a situation where there were no natural supplies of any kind, was to teach them that He was adequate for every need, and that, "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." God can only become real to us up to the measure of our actual needs, and every difficult situation is just a vessel for Him to fill, and an occasion for Him to show Himself in His infinite wisdom, power and grace. The apostle tells us, therefore, that he was exposed to every sort of difficulty in order that the power of Christ might rest upon him according to his needs, and therefore he welcomed each new situation as another vessel for God to fill and another occasion for Him to say, "My grace is sufficient for thee."

Beloved, are we thus proving and finding Him equal to all the conditions of our lives, and glorying in being able to tell the world that our God shall supply all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus?

3. They teach us faith. Trial is the fruitful soil of trust. Difficulties are the divine incentives which demand and develop our confidence in the divine faithfulness and love. The eagle can only teach her young to fly by tearing up her nest and hurling them out in mid-air, where, thrown upon their own resources, they must either fly or fall. Then it is that they must learn the undeveloped power in their little pinions, and as they strike out upon the air in desperate struggles they find the secret of a new life, and gradually learn to beat their way through the pathless firmament and fly upon the wings of the wind and in the face of the sun.

So God teaches His children to use the wings of faith by stirring up their nests, taking away their props and flinging them out oftentimes into an abyss of helplessness, where they must either sink or learn to trust and throw themselves upon the seeming void to find that God is there beneath them like the supporting wing which the eagle stretches forth beneath her faint and struggling brood.

It is so easy for us to lean upon the things that we can see, and feel that it is an entirely new experience for us to stand alone and walk with the unseen God as Peter walked upon the sea. But it is the lesson we must learn if we are ever to dwell in the eternal realm, and faith shall be our only sense and God shall be our All in all. Very gently does He suit the test to our feeble strength, and lead us on as we are able from more to more. Are we thus trusting Him in life's hard places, and growing strong as we endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ?

4. They teach us to pray and constrain us to be much alone with God. They drove Jacob to his knees at the fords of Jabbok. They taught David to find "the secret place of the Most High." They made the life of Paul one ceaseless dependence upon the presence of his Lord, and they have inspired as well as sustained the divine communion which most of us have learned to prove as the supreme resource and solution of our lives. It is very humbling that it should be true that God must press His children to His breast by suffering and need, but it is, alas, too often the case that ease

and comfort lead us to, at least, a partial independence of Him, and our most spiritual seasons and the times that have brought God most near have been times of which we would say, "Thou hast known my soul in adversity."

5. They teach us to love, and when God wants to soften and refine our spirit, and answer our prayers for a baptism of patience and love, He has to let the discipline of ill treatment, injustice and often the severest wrong compel us to go to Him for the charity that "beareth all things," that "endureth all things." Of course, we find out first that we have not the love adequate for the test, and as the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sins He leads us to the source of strength, and then as we gradually learn the humbling lesson He leads us on from day to day in deeper testing and sweeter refining until we can thank Him for the fire that brought us more of His Spirit's grace and His own overcoming love.

6. They teach us patience. It is a thorough school to learn to endure, and patience is the crowning grace of the Christian life, and when it has its perfect work then we become "perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Often, therefore, the latest and the crowning lesson of the spiritual life is in the school of suffering.

7. They teach us courage. They take away the fear of suffering, the dread of pain, and enable us to put on His strength and courage, and rise above the power of fear until we welcome the conflict, and stand with scars of the conflict and victory as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

8. They make us patterns and object lessons for the help of others and for the glory of God, showing to the world what Christ can do for His children, and what Christ-lives may accomplish where others fail. God wants us to be a spectacle unto the world and to angels and to men, showing to them in our example that Christ can keep in every situation, and that the power of His grace is practical, supernatural and adapted to every human life.

9. They fit us to help others by the lessons we have learned in our own experience. The callous and immature heart is little qualified to comfort, counsel and bless a suffering world. God has to burn in us first what we are to give out to our fellows, and in the painful ordeal of a real experience it qualifies us to comfort, strengthen and encourage the souls to whom He has to send us,

and to whom we can say, "I have been there, and I can tell you from the depths of my own experience that 'my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.'"

10. They make Christ real, just as real as the trouble is. They are the heavenly stamps by which God's messages and God's communications of grace and blessing are embossed and made to stand out in relief from our lives. The picture is first cut, and then burned into that card by the heavy stamp and the glowing flame, and then it becomes what we call relief work, and everybody can see it and feel it.

So God cuts and burns His messages into human lives until Christ becomes to us as real as the tears we have shed, the fears under which we have trembled, the sorrows that were ready to overwhelm us, and the difficulties which arose like mountains before us, so that the sweetest memories of our lives are the hard places which have become stepping stones and monuments of divine and heavenly things.

11. They win for us eternal crowns. They become occasions for victory and reward. Our heroic soldiers are craving the posts of honor because they know they will bring the applause of a nation and the lasting fame of history itself. They are true heroes, and they win a great reward. But the time will come when even their names will be forgotten and their chaplets will have faded. The soldier of Christ is winning a record and a crown which will never pass away. When the history of America is forgotten and the records of time are obliterated, when the solar system is but a cinder, and new heavens and a new earth are sweeping in the orbits of immensity, these lives will shine, these records will be told again, these characters will be there, the lives that will share with God Himself the government of the heavens and the earth, and the glories of that coming age for which all things are now preparing and which is to be the climax, a paragon, and the crown of all nature, providence, history and experience forever.

Beloved, shall we save our sorrows? Shall we win a crown for life's conflict? Shall we get out of the things that are happening today all that Christ has for us? Shall we be "more than conquerors through him that loved us?" And shall we endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, and some day hear Him say:

"Soldier of Christ, well done,
Fulfil thy high employ.
The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master's joy."

SOCIETY NEWS

PIEDMONT—PORTLAND.

Ralph Dodderidge is enjoying country life in Scotts Mills helping Lloyd Taylor harvest his prune crop.

Our church blossomed out in two coats of good light gray paint recently. It was applied by our faithful pastor, Mr. Jessup.

Peter Miller attended Quarterly Meeting at Scotts Mills. He reports a good meeting.

We are expecting a good attendance at the Bible Institute this year. The plans for the new dormitory are to be in the hands of the contractor by September 1st. It will be a three-story building.

Our young people still have charge of the Monday night services at the Commons Mission. One young man was gloriously converted two weeks ago, and is standing true to the Lord. It makes us thankful that we held on, even though tempted at times to lay the work down during the summer.

ROSEDALE.

Work on our new church is progressing nicely. The forms are up, and the concrete will be in by the last of the month. We hope to get it ready so that the basement may be used for worship this winter.

At a C. E. social and business meeting held at Helen Cammack's, new officers were elected for the coming six months. Helen Cammack was chosen president. After the business meeting, a lawn social was held. Tennis and other games were enjoyed. Ice cream and cake were served as refreshments.

The preacher has a new Ford.

Gus Cole has a new "Cleveland (not tractor) Six."

The "Loyal Workers" class pleasantly surprised Clifford Smith, Saturday evening, August 22, on his 17th birthday, and the Men's Chorus surprised Jay Gardner August 17th, and helped him get over his 40th mile-stone.

We have assumed our share of the Yearly Meeting budget, and already several have paid their \$2.50.

Our C. E. and evening service have been dismissed during the Marion County Holiness Association camp meeting held in Salem. Homer L. Cox and Brother Huckaby are conducting the services.

SOUTH SALEM.

We are indeed happy to welcome Mrs. Zella Smith Miller among us. She was married to Albert Miller at Barclay, Kansas, August 3rd. He is now practicing Optometry.

The "Maidens" were the losers in the "Gleaners" class contest, so they entertained the "Golds" one evening at a pretty lawn party at Miss Marjorie Elliott's home.

An enjoyable and profitable time was spent August 15, in hearing a report of the Conference. The subject seems to be inexhaustible.

Miss Sophia Townsend left Monday to visit friends in Quilcene, Seattle and Tacoma.

Several members of the church are attending the Marion County Holiness Camp Meeting, and find it a means of great blessing and inspiration.

STAR.

Mrs. Elma J. Sanders is assisting in the Evangelistic meetings now being conducted at Pearl, an old mining town, which has had no services except a Sabbath school.

J. W. Jones' little daughter, Lela, is gaining rapidly after having her tonsils and adenoids removed.

Members of the Sylvanus Haworth family are taking an outing in High Valley. They are Mrs. Emma Haworth and sons Earl and Cecil, with Earl's wife and little son.

Clifford Elmore, who is attending school at Corvallis, Oregon, is at home for a short time.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Heston, of Des Moines, Iowa, are visiting his brother, L. W. Heston and family.

Everett Hollingsworth, of West Branch, Iowa, who has spent the summer at the J. E. Roberts home, has gone to California to visit relatives before returning to Iowa.

A new Sunday school class has been organized which is composed of the young married people.

The Womens' Missionary Society is planning to send a Christmas box for Esther Baird's work in India.

None of our members being present at the Conference, Elma Sanders kindly

gave us a report at our last business meeting.

Our society has only twenty-three active members, but we have reported \$115 given to Missions this past year.

Elbert Cone has been visiting friends at Ola, Idaho.

Mrs. Mae Ramont, of Modesto, Calif., is visiting her mother, Mrs. Mary Roberts, and brother, J. E. Roberts and family.

Waldo Jones, who has for the past year been at Napa, Calif., is returning to Star, where he will attend school. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Jones, will follow later.

REX.

We Rex people have been so busy with our berries and other home duties that we failed to send items last month, but we have a few for this time.

Mrs. A. Astleford and sons surprised the Wiley family by walking in on July 17th, between 12 and 1 o'clock at night. The neighbors were also surprised to see them the next morning at Sunday school. We are glad to have them with us. They expect to stay a few months.

The Ladies' Aid Society met at the home of Halcyon Wiley, August 5th. To them she unfolded a great and wonderful secret. The napkins were passed by little Paul Astleford, and in the folds of the napkins was a small card bearing the announcement of her engagement to Dennis Charles Mills. Cookies and punch were served. The following Thursday a shower was given her which was a surprise for her. She received many beautiful and useful gifts. We regret to see her leave us, but our best wishes for a successful life go with her.

Our pastor, Lyle Hubbard, and wife expect to move to Rex soon.

SCOTTS MILLS.

Our C. E. prayer meetings have been times of real blessing and help the past month.

Mr. and Mrs. Sims returned Monday evening after a week's outing at Netarts.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Earl Deane left August 18 for New York, after an extended visit with Mrs. Deane's parents. They sail September 2, on the Mauretania en route to Africa.

The monthly C. E. business meeting met at the home of Miss Olive Merry,

Friday evening, August 6. After business a social hour was spent together. Refreshments were served consisting of cake and ice cream.

In the absence of our pastor on Sunday, August 15, Earl and Mamie Deane had charge of the services.

AN ACCOUNT OF A WEDDING.

The home of George L. Carr, 1222 Congress Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana, was the scene of a pretty wedding Friday evening, July 16th at 8 p. m., when their daughter, Goldie, became the bride of O. Kenneth Tamplin. Both young people were formerly residents of Portland, Oregon, and members of the Second Friends Church. Mr. Tamplin still holds his membership at the Second Church of Portland.

The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Alice Carr, and the bridegroom by Paul Jones as best man.

The bride looked most charming in a gown of white crepe de chene with a beautiful veil held in place with dainty blue for-get-me-nots. She carried a bouquet of exquisite white roses. The maid of honor was gowned in a dainty blue silk and carried carnations. The bridegroom and best man wore the conventional black.

The house was beautifully decorated in blue and white. The bridal party came down the broad stairway to the strains of "Mendelssohn's Wedding March," and took their places under the large wedding bell in a canopy of blue and white with a background of ferns.

The impressive ring service was used, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Nettie Riley, of Entiat, Washington, who was pastor of the Second Friends Church of Portland when these young people lived there.

Immediately after the ceremony a congratulatory telegram was read from the parents of the groom, Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Tamplin, of Portland, Oregon.

Ice cream and cake were served to about 40 guests, the bridal party being seated at a table decorated with streamers draped from the chandelier above. The color scheme of blue and white was also carried out in the refreshments.

An original poem written by C. C. Barker, of McMinnville, Oregon, (an uncle of the bride and a member of the Second Friends Church of Portland, Oregon) was also received by special delivery in time to be read to the interested guests.

Many beautiful and useful presents were received.

"But He knoweth the way that I take; when He hath tried me I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10.

REVIEW TO REMIND.

We have published twenty-five issues of A Friendly Endeavor.

The societies have reported as follows:

South Salem in	23	numbers
Star in	22	"
Springbrook in	20	"
Portland-First in	20	"
Portland-Second in	18	"
Boise in	17	"
Rex in	16	"
Scotts Mills in	14	"
Rosedale in	13	"
Highland in	12	"
Newberg in	9	"
Marion in	9	"
Piedmont in	8	"
Greenleaf in	7	"
Quilcene in	6	"
Chehalem Center in	3	"
Sherwood in	2	"
Middleton in	2	"

It takes us a long time to be entirely reconciled to the wrecking of a dearly loved plan, but God doesn't need our service as much as he needs our utter and complete abandonment to His will.

"I shaped a plan,
A cherished fair design—
It was to charm and glorify
This life of mine.

God shaped a cross,
And laid its rugged weight
Athwart my plan; in ruins it
Lay desolate.

With stormful soul
And sullen steps I trod—
Slightly the hand of love—beneath
That cross of God.

Crushed by its load
Upward I looked at length;
Thru the thick dark reached out,
And grasped His hand of strength.

In contrite shame
I breathed, 'Thy will be done.'
And lo!—illumed with gems—my
Cross became a crown!"

—(Selected.)

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: .

"But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." I. Peter 4:12-13.

Well I know thy sorrow,
Oh, my servant true;
Thou art very weary—
I was weary too.

But that toil shall make thee
Some day all mine own:

And the end of sorrow
Shall be near My throne.

—J. M. Neale.

A Friendly Endeavor

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This is the time of year when we begin to put into execution the plans we have made. We have ambitions for great things. Some are taking up new lines of work, and are looking forward eagerly to success. Our students select their courses in school and prepare to delve for knowledge; our teachers are ever looking for new methods to interest their pupils; our pastors are constantly on the alert for ways and means to minister to our spiritual needs. Everywhere we meet with noble purposes, with beautiful plans and sublime intentions, and if these are in the will of God we would love to see them all completed.

But before they are finished and perfected—well, that's just what we're going to consider this month. Trials will come, and if we aren't very careful, discouragement follows trial. It would indeed be most wonderful to be able to accomplish the goal for which we are striving, with never a stony path, or a thorny rose, or a dreary day, but God wants a "tried people," and He wants them badly enough to allow hardships that almost seem more than we can stand sometimes. Trial and test, and discouragement are not pleasant subjects. They depress our spirits, and we may almost become disheartened. It seems as if God's people these days are being tried in most unusual ways. Testimony meetings are freighted with accounts of trials and testings, some along spiritual lines, others in material things. Often there is a shout of victory, occasionally the voice vibrates with a holy determination to plough thru and go on, and sometimes one is so nearly crushed that there are only tears, and a cry to God for strength to get the next breath, and help to struggle on.

It may be easy enough for some brands of religion to prattle about "keep smiling," in a light flippant sort of way, but we question the depth of the soul's crucifixion in these cases. The soul that purposes to go through with God is actually going through some fires. We are not trying to wave a flag of discouragement in front of you, but just to prepare you for what we know is coming if you stay true. It is to help you in that

peculiar situation that you may be facing right now. That thing in your life about which you are saying, "if it were not for this condition I am now in, I could have victory." It's just that condition we want you to have victory over. You may not always be blest in just the way you are looking for, but we truly believe that there is a mighty consciousness of triumph over every thing under Heaven for the cleansed and spirit-filled soul, after God has finished His work of testing.

Peter said, "wherefore gird up the loins of your mind," and that being interpreted probably means, "get into the harness." So here we go for another year's work, and when the trial comes, you save this issue of the paper for a "comfort powder."

Next month we hope to give you a little news on our Conference plans for the coming year.

The subscriptions are not blocking the mails by any means. We realize that many have been away on their vacations, but this month should bring a large number of renewals and new subscriptions. Some societies have already sent in a goodly number with a promise of more. We want all we can get—partly for the wider distribution of the paper, and partly for the financial help. So let each president take this matter up at once.

WHEN THE TRIAL COMES DON'T DOUBT.

Here is Thomas C. Henderson with a word of encouragement:

"You have trial and dissatisfaction and the out-look is dark. You don't succeed as you want to; oh, if you see no light ahead, hold steady, God will pull you through. Don't coddle your doubts. Coddling is a hot-house to make them grow. Pull them up by the roots and take them to Jesus. The strongest and biggest of us will have our troubles. Take them to Jesus."

Brother Merias, of Cleveland, comes along and pats you on the back, by way of helping you on:

"You'll have dark days sometimes; you'll have mountains. Just keep going on. Don't get uneasy, but keep going. If you don't seem to be getting on fast, then just keep going ahead! You're in a tunnel as dark as night. Pull right on—go ahead. After a while you'll pull into the Golden Gate and the sun will be shining.

"The trying of your faith worketh patience." James 1:3.

"I know their sorrows." Exodus 3:7.

Andrew Murray has a way of bringing many truths together into a very small bundle. Here is an example:

IN TIME OF TROUBLE

Say—

First: HE brought me here—it is by His will I am in this strait place; in that will I rest.

Next: HE will keep me in His love, and give me grace in this trial to act as His child.

Then: HE will make the trial a blessing—teaching me the lessons He means me to learn, and working in me the grace He intends for me.

Last: IN His good time He can bring me out again—how and when, He knows.

Say—I AM HERE:

1. By God's appointment.
2. In His keeping.
3. Under His training.
4. For His time.

RAIN AND CLOUDS.

"Is it rainy, little flower?

Be glad of rain,
The sun that veils itself from thee
Will shine again.

The clouds are very dark, 'tis true,
But just behind them shines the blue.

Art thou weary, tender heart?

Be glad of pain,
In sorrow sweetest things will grow
As flowers in rain.

God watches, and thou wilt have sun,
When clouds their perfect work have done."

—Mary F. Butts.

North Pacific Evangelistic Institute

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