

Good Words for Every Day of the Year,
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June 29.

"I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me."—Ps. cxix. 75.

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."—Rev. iii. 19.

These verses may remind some of deep sorrows, days of darkness, nights of weeping, never to be effaced from memory. What traces have they left? What results have they produced? Can we say, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted?" These things have not happened to us by chance, they were sent with a purpose, and it was a purpose of love. God doth not afflict willingly. O poor mourner, thy heavenly Father would not so grieve thy heart, unless some great and worthy end were to be accomplished: has it, then, been fulfilled in thee? God designs to bring thee to Himself if thou hast never yet come to Him; to recall thee if thou hast wandered from Him; or, perhaps, He prunes thy branches, even though fruitful, in order that they may bring forth more fruit, and he is no fruit-bearing Christian who would wish to be let alone. There is something in which the believer ought to be more zealous, something for which he ought to repent, and it is because God loves him that He chastens him to teach him these lessons.

"Affliction, when it spreads around,

May seem a field of woe;

Yet there at last the happy fruits

Of righteousness shall grow."

June 30.

"Be patient toward all men."—1 Thess. v. 14.

"And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."—Eph. iv. 32.

The apostle, who instructs us in the loftiest Christian doctrines, does not think it beneath him to exhort us to the practice of the lowliest Christian virtues; we are not true disciples unless we seek to practise the one as well as to believe the other. "Be patient,"— it is sometimes a hard duty, and some dispositions find it peculiarly so. When we look to Jesus, we see what true patience is. How meekly He bore all and suffered all; how tenderly He reproved, instructed, watched over His own in spite of all their slowness of heart to believe! O meek and lowly Lamb of God, let me learn of Thee; and do Thou put Thy Spirit within me, to correct all those hasty, impatient feelings which are so apt to arise in my heart, and which are so displeasing in Thy sight! May I be kind, tender, and forgiving from high principle, not from mere natural feeling, to those whom I love; may I forgive as one to whom much has been forgiven; and may thoughts of Thy love make me learn love. If tempted to anger, this day may I set Thy patience before me as my pattern, and repel the temptation in Thy strength; and whatever others do to irritate or provoke, may I hear Thy voice saying to me, "Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart"—"be patient toward all men."

"Could we bear from one another
What He daily bears from us?
Yet this glorious Friend and Brother
Loves us though we treat Him thus:
Though for good we render ill
He accounts us brethren still.