

# The South African MISSIONARY

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

VOLUME X.

KENILWORTH, CAPE, JANUARY 30, 1911.

NUMBER 5.

## Blessings in Disguise.

GOD never would send you the darkness,  
If He felt you could bear the light;  
You would not cling to His guiding hand  
If the way were always bright:  
And you would not care to walk by faith  
Could you always walk by sight.

'Tis true he has many an anguish  
Your sorrowful heart to tear.  
And many a cruel thorn-crown  
For your tired head to wear.  
He knows few would reach heaven at all,  
If pain did not guide them there.

So He sends you the blinding darkness  
And the furnace of seven-fold heat:  
'Tis the only way, believe me,  
To keep you at His feet.  
For 'tis always so easy to wander,  
When our lives are glad and sweet.

Then nestle your hand in the Father's,  
And sing, if you can as you go;  
Your song may gladden another,  
Whose courage is sinking low.  
And, well, if your lips do quiver,  
The Lord will love you the better so.  
—Selected.

## The Holy Spirit an Aid to Bible Study.

The Holy Spirit has been given as an aid in the study of God's word. Jesus promised, "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." Those who are under the training of the Holy Spirit, will be able to teach the Word intelligently. When the Bible is made the book of study, with earnest supplication for the Spirit's guidance, and a full surrender

of the heart to be sanctified through the truth, it will accomplish all that Christ has promised.

The results of such study will be well-balanced minds. The understanding will be quickened; the sensibilities will be aroused; the conscience will become sensitive; the sympathies and sentiments will be purified; a better moral atmosphere will be created; and a new power to resist temptation will be imparted.

The knowledge of God is not to be gained without mental effort, without prayer for wisdom. We should search diligently for its hidden treasure, and seek wisdom from heaven that we may be able to distinguish between human inventions and the divine commands. The Holy Spirit will aid the seeker for great and precious truths which relate to the plan of redemption. A casual reading of the Scriptures is not enough. We must search, and this implies a doing of all the Word implies. As the miner eagerly explores the earth to discover its veins of gold, so we are to explore the Word of God for the hidden treasure that Satan has so long sought to hide from man. The Lord says, "If any man willeth to do his will, he shall know of the teaching."

The great error of the Romish Church is found in the fact that the Bible is interpreted in the light of the opinions of the "fathers." Their opinions are regarded as infallible, and the dignitaries of the church assume that it is their prerogative to make others believe as they do.

Those who do not agree with them are pronounced heretics. But the word of God is not thus to be interpreted. It is to stand on its own eternal merits, to be read as the Word of God, which declares His will to the people.

The blessed Bible gives us a knowledge of the great plan of salvation, and shows us how every individual may have eternal life. Who is the author of the Book?—Jesus Christ. He is the True Witness, and He says to His own, "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand." The Bible shows us the way to Christ, and in Christ eternal life is revealed. Jesus said to the Jews, and to those who gathered about him in multitudes, "search the Scriptures." The Jews had the Scriptures which testified of Christ, but they were not able to discern Christ in the Scriptures. The truths of the old Testament they had so mingled with human opinions that its teachings were mystified, and the will of God to man covered up. Christ's sermon on the mount virtually contradicted the doctrines of the self-righteous scribes and Pharisees. They had so misrepresented God that He was looked upon as a stern judge, incapable of compassion, mercy and love. They presented to the people endless maxims and traditions that had no "Thus saith the Lord for their authority. Though they professed to know and to worship the true and living God, they wholly misrepresented Him and the character of God as





