THINGS RARELY MET WITH: PATIENCE, UNWORLDLINESS, RESIGNATION, MEEKNESS, HUMILITY, THE LOVE OF ENEMIES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649357024

Things rarely met with: patience, unworldliness, resignation, meekness, humility, the love of enemies by James Erasmus Philipps

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

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JAMES ERASMUS PHILIPPS

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PATIENCE,

MEEKNESS.

UNWORLDLINESS,

HUMILITY,

RESIGNATION,

THE LOVE OF ENEMIES.

BY

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RIVINGTONS,

WATERLOO PLACE, LONDON; BIGH STREET, OXFORD;

THINITY STREET, CAMBBIDGE.

1867.

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To the Memory

OP A

MUCH LOVED MOTHER,

IN WHOM THESE

"THINGS BABBLY MET WITH"

WERE FOUND IN A REMARKABLE DEGREE

THIS LITTLE BOOK

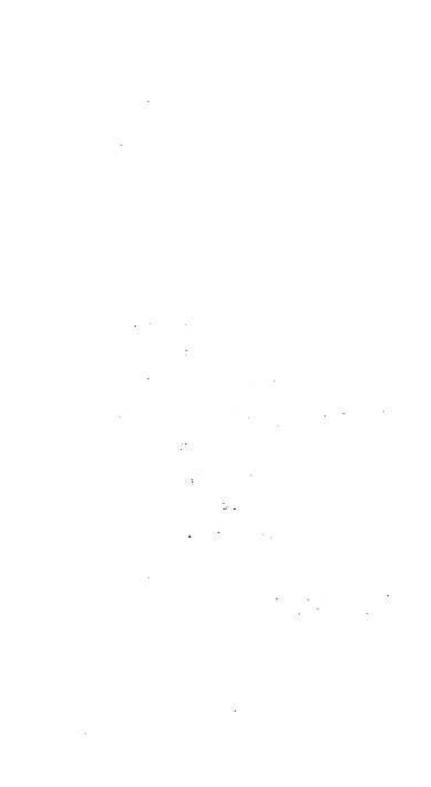
IS DEDICATED,

BY

HER ONLY SON.

WARMINSTRE VICARAGE, JANUARY, 1867.

(370)



Patience.

4

" Patient towards all men *."

'ONE grace of which there is a sad lack, an alarming scarcity, is patience. Men who are honest, upright, diligent, truthful, temperate, are fearfully impatient. Patience, in their case, instead of having "its perfect work," scarcely shows herself at all. They, in some cases, hardly even care to be patient, but contentedly set down their impatience to the hurry and excitement of business, to their minds being overwrought, and also to the dulness and obtuseness of others. They just make to themselves a faint excuse for their want of patience, and there leave it! They view it as a slight failing, as one which scarcely has the nature of sin, and thus, from there being no strenuous effort to get the better of this deadly habit, instead of growing more patient as they grow older, they, on the contrary, become more impatient, and so, alas! it comes to pass that old

^{* 1} Thess. v. part of verse 14.

age is too commonly noted for impatience rather than for patience. Men ought to have grown year-by-year more patient instead of less so.

Now Holy Scripture, instead of regarding patience as a light matter, which a man may endeavour to gain or not as the whim takes him, lays very great stress on its acquirement. Our blessed Saviour, in foretelling his disciples of the woes to come on Jerusalem and on the world, spoke of patience as of one thing which would stand them in good stead-"In your patience possess ye your souls." And so in the Parable of the Sower, good fruit is represented as being brought forth "with patience." We find St. Paul rejoicing over the Thessalonians for their patience. The same Apostle also exhorts his son in the faith, Timotheus, to pursue patience, and bids him preach to the aged men that they be sound in patience. We are told in the Epistle to the Hebrews that it is through the exercise of patience, coupled with faith, that God's promises are inherited. St. James teaches us that faith is tried in order to produce The same Apostle likewise sets forth the ordinary husbandman as an example of long patience, and reminds us of the conspicuousness of this virtue in God's servant Job.

St. Peter speaks of patience as a necessary component part of the Christian character, a thing without which faith is incomplete, "that ve add to your faith patience." To run then our great race of Christian life aright, it must, we are taught, be run with patience; yes, the Bible does not speak ambiguously about the absolute need of patience. It puts it down as a necessary Christian quality, one without which the Christian man is incomplete; indeed, not to possess patience in some degree, would seem to shut us out altogether from the Fellowship of Christ. It is as much a part of the true Christian as are temperance and brotherly kindness; of this we may rest assured, that patience is expected of us. God looks for it in us. And that we may the better understand and know that it is a thing pleasant and acceptable to Him, and an attribute pertaining unto Himself, He hath been pleased to speak of Himself, by the mouth of an Apostle, as "the God of patience." Patience, then, is a grace which we are vigorously to follow after and to make our own. The great poet of our nation, who often spoke as one well-nigh half inspired, shows us he realized the vast importance of this grace when he exclaimed, "How poor are they that have not patience."