

Editorial.

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EDITOR.The Hidden Ones with their Saviour:
or Communion with God.

Night and day, winter and summer, cloudy and sunshiny weather, are necessaries to animal and vegetable matter; so, also, are the various changes in the feelings of Christ's hidden ones. They are hid in Christ, and He is their sun; so called from the analogy of His influence over them to the influence of the terrestrial sun over inferior worlds. And just as the sun rises and sets, bringing light and warmth to this world, and darkness and coldness follow its setting, so is the Christian course. And God has displayed just as much wisdom in the spiritual system of Divine action upon our souls, by the risings and settings of the Sun of Righteousness therein. For God has ordained the day and the night, the wet and the dry, the cold and the warm seasons, for the benefit of this world. So are all our changes spiritual, ordained of God, for the benefit of our souls and His glory. The hour of solitude is ordained of God, to His glory, just as much as the sunny top of Pisgah. For in the hours of solitude the soul withdraws from mirth, and all the pleasures of the outer man dies. We now behold a world of confusion and disappointments, that only disturb our thoughts and mar our peace, we also see that there is no position beneath the sun for us, hence we exclaim: "The Lord is my portion, saith my soul." He is also my dwelling place. He is my hiding place from the stormy wind and tempest. Hence when our earthly dwellings are burned or wax old, we yet have a building, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. In this house we are now living by faith, and are holding communion with the head thereof,

having fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

Here in this spiritual mansion, the inmates walk only by faith, and all of them have one and the same faith, and that of a peculiar character, even the faith of God's elect. And by this faith only they commune with God, and have fellowship with the saints. They live also by hope, and this hope never seen, but presented to the soul by this peculiar faith; the object of which is to keep them fully anchored on Christ, in the harbor of His salvation; while the storms of doubts and fears are designed only to keep us clinging closer to the cross of the Captain of our salvation.— And in such storms, we may rest assured that Christ is in or near the vessel. For He is just as much the commander of the storm as He is of the calm.— Hence it is that the storm arising upon the high seas, in the days of the disciples, was no evidence that Christ was not in the vessel; though the vessel be tossed to and fro, and the waves roar, and at times appear ready to swallow the crew, yet, in the side of the ship, or in our hearts, is to us, a sleeping Jesus, who will awake to our cries, and with one sweet smile and Almighty whisper, say: "Peace, be still; and there was a great calm." Hence it is, that the storm and the calm, alike glorified God. In the storm, He calls our attention; and in stilling the waves thereof, displays His power to save. And remember, that in all the storms in thy soul, and the winds of unbelief, that make your way perilous and your sea rough and boisterous, that Christ is in your vessel, calling your attention, and saying, "Be not afraid, it is I;"— I, that ride upon the wind—I, that walk upon the waves—I, that fly upon the lightning—I, that marshal the clouds and handle the thunder—I, that the winds and the seas obey—I, the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, that was dead and

is alive, and behold I am alive forever more;" "and because I live, you shall live also." Hence a familiarity of communion takes place in the soul, with its God; being hid in Christ with God, they feel at home, secure from storms, persecutions and death. They also love one another with a pure heart fervently; they talk and write to and for each others comfort, they also pray for and with each other; bearing each others burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ, their glorious Head. They are taught to believe in one Lord, one faith and one baptism, and to see eye to eye, and speak the same thing. These hidden ones are established in their goings, so that the gates of hell shall never be able to prevail against the feeblest lamb of this fold. Their hearts and souls are stayed upon their God forever. They are one family, scattered among every nation, kindred, tongue and people under heaven, redeemed by blood and saved by grace. Hence they are admitted to eat at the King's table, to drink at His fountains, and to sit down under His shadow with great delight.— Their confidence in the wisdom and power of their King is such, that none of them will attempt to add or diminish one jot or tittle from the code of laws that He has given, being content for the entire government to be upon His shoulder. They also rest their hope for life and salvation, in the council of peace held before the world began, and revealed in time, to such as shall be heirs of salvation. And this manifestation in time, of God's ancient love and mercy to Israel, ever has and ever will endear the Governor and His government to them; and notwithstanding they are hid from the world, yet they are not hid from each other, for as in water face answers to face, so the heart of man to man. Hence it is, that the experience of each child of God reflects the likeness of all the family; so

that when you see your own experience, you see in substance the experience of all that are hid in Christ; and so identified are our lives, that your joys are our joys, and your sorrows are our sorrows, and your faith is our faith, and your hope is our hope.— Hence we mourn with them that do mourn, and rejoice with them that do rejoice. Also, what is hid from the wise and prudent, is hid for, and revealed to, all the hidden ones. Hence they are built up, a spiritual house, to offer up spiritual sacrifices unto God, acceptable through Jesus Christ. As a house is built together, and one part supplieth another, so, the church is also benefitted by the feeblest member; and how often is our hearts made glad and our souls to rejoice, to read or hear of the mercies of God being realized by His redeemed children in the different parts of the earth. But we will all have our changes, our fears, and our doubts, until our race is run; but do not the saints hold communion with God? "Ah," says one, "I fear I do not; but I wish I could; and I often retire and pour out my soul before God in prayer that I might." But do you not at times feel a glow of love burst forth from your heart, and in the ecstasy of your soul praise God at the remembrance of His mercy to you? Thus you enjoy a peace for a time, that is inexpressible and full of glory. You have a good hope, through faith in His name. You love the Lord and His children. You love the doctrine, and feel happy when you remember that grace abounds to the chief of sinners, for His righteousness sake. You then can exclaim, "Not unto us, not unto us, but to Thy name be the glory." So if you are one of the hidden ones, you hold communion with God; and your conclusions are: If I am not a child of God, I want to be; if I don't love, I want to love; if I do not obey, I want to obey; if I have not prayed, I want to pray; if I do not believe, I want to believe: "Help thou my unbelief."—Ed.