

PRESBYTERIAN BANNER & ADVOCATE.

Presbyterian Banner, Vol. V, No. 50.
Presbyterian Advocate, Vol. XIX, No. 45.

"ONE THING IS NEEDFUL." "ONE THING HAVE I DESIRED OF THE LORD." "THIS ONE THING I DO."

WHOLE NO. 258

DAVID McKINNEY, Editor and Proprietor.

PUBLICATION OFFICE, GAZETTE BUILDING, FIFTH STREET, ABOVE SMITHFIELD, PITTSBURGH, PA.

Philadelphia, 111 South Tenth Street, below Chestnut

TERMS.—IN ADVANCE.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1857.

By Mail, or at the Office, \$1.50 per Year, {SEE PROSPECTUS.
Delivered in the City, 1.75

Original Poetry.

Going Home.
At—Home, Again,
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God's plan to humble human pride. The blind leads the blind in a way they know not, Isa. ix. 16. The main use of the publication of religious experiences is, not to teach men just how they must feel when they become Christians, but to illustrate the rich and free grace of God, and show the diversity of the Divine operations upon the souls of men. This is the great value of Dr. A. Alexander's *Thoughts on Religious Experience*. He has been said to have known more of experimental religion than any man in America, both in his own personal experience, and in his collected experiences of others. Many of these are given and commented on in his *Thoughts*. It is a treasure which all should possess and study. Do you believe? Do you trust in him? And read also his "Life," and his "Way of Salvation," and his "Divine Guidance," all published by the Presbyterian Board. But be not distressed because your experience is not like that of others, nor because you do not feel just as you think you ought, or as you desire to feel. The great point is, Have you faith? Do you believe? Let your trust be in Jesus Christ, and serve him with all your heart. He will be your light and your salvation, your peace and joy.

In some few points—the great outlines—the experience of all is alike, or very similar; but in the details, religious experience is almost endlessly diversified. No two are exactly alike; just as no two human faces are exactly alike; just as no two human minds are exactly alike; and just as the condition and circumstances, and the influences under which they are placed, of no two are exactly and in all respects alike. There are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.—1 Cor. xii. 3-7. Hence be not distressed because your experience is not just like that of others; nor because you have not felt just as you thought you should; nor because you do not now feel just as you wish you did; nor because you do not always feel just alike, or have the same degree of peace and confidence. Religion is not mere feeling; it is a vital principle, and the principle may be there, though not always equally active. The great point is, Have you faith? Do you believe? Do you trust in him? Do you rely upon him? Are you living to his glory? Is he precious to you? And do you delight in the way of salvation through him? Does that way appear excellent and glorious, and is Jesus Christ the beloved of your soul, the chiefest among ten thousand and altogether lovely? Are you living a life of faith and prayer? As you live! Solomon's Song: v. 9-16, *Hymn 88.*

"Hail! my ever blessed Jesus,
Only thee I wish to sing;
To my soul thy name is precious,
Thou my Prophet, Priest, and King."
Yours, truly,
H.C.M.

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