

certainty that, though they may have to pass through afflictions and death, it will only be so if His glory may be the better secured thereby; while He inspires them with the confidence that no power in earth or hell can restrain His working here and now, if it be His will to deliver. With this present assurance, and certain future triumph, nothing remains but to go forward in the conflict with a good hope, a thankful courage, and an ever-ready use of the weapon of prayer which we have seen He provides for the special relief of His Church militant here in earth.



New Year's Hymn.

"I will not fail thee."—*Joshua* i. 5.

BY THE REV. A. J. SANTER.

I.

THE love of God can never fail,
 As ocean's depths it doth abound;
 Unwearied on the wand'rer's trail
 It seeks till erring souls are found.¹

2.

The strength of God can never fail,
 To Him all power and might belong;
 We know ourselves as weaklings frail,²
 Then in Omnipotence are strong.

3.

The truth of God can never fail,
 His word, unchanging, never dies;³
 "The Lord hath spoken" shall prevail
 O'er man's conceits and Satan's lies.

¹ Luke xv. 2.

² 2 Cor. xii. 10.

³ 1 Pet. i. 23.

4.

The peace of God can never fail,—
 Terrors may come in any form,—
 Hope's anchor fixed within the veil,¹
 We calmly face the fiercest storm.

5.

The life of God can never fail,
 'Tis stored and given in His Son ;²
 We tread triumphant death's dark vale,
 Led by the Ever-living One.³

6.

The rest of God can never fail ;⁴
 How sweet to lay the burden down,
 Ungird the warrior's coat of mail,
 And take instead th' eternal crown !⁵



The Life of Principal Rainy.⁶

BY THE REV. PROFESSOR JAMES ORR, D.D.

IT is not always that ecclesiastical biographies, even though the subjects of them are men of distinction, are really interesting, or establish their right to rank as literature. Either the men were not great and many-sided enough to make their lives important, or the events in which they took part were not of historical magnitude, or the treatment is trivial and gossipy, or there is a confined, partisan spirit in the writer's outlook and treatment. This biography of the late Principal Rainy by the Rev. P. Carnegie Simpson may confidently be cited as an exception to the too common rule. It is not chargeable with any of the above weaknesses, deals with a very remarkable man, who was identified with the most remarkable movements in the Scottish Church history of the last half-century, and is written in a style and spirit, with a breadth of view, and sagacity of insight, which will, without doubt, secure for it a place among the best works of the kind in the language.

Although a biography of Principal Rainy, the man, the scholar, the teacher,

¹ Heb. vi. 19.

² 1 John v. 11.

³ Ps. xxiii. 4.

⁴ Matt. xi. 28.

⁵ 2 Tim. iv. 8.

⁶ "The Life of Principal Rainy." By Patrick Carnegie Simpson, M.A. With portraits. London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1909. 2 vols., 21s. net.