

studies, and became greatly interested in the Word of God, and though he left, and probably felt that those two or three years were a failure, this couple raised ~~h~~ three sons who are wonderful ~~g~~ Christian leaders today, and they held Bible classes in their home for the next thirty ~~y~~ years that had an influence on great numbers of people. I am sure if that minister has already gone to heaven - I do not know whether he has - I am sure he was surprised and overjoyed to hear that what he thought was a failure had been one of the most fruitful parts of his life through the influence on these two there.

The story of the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, ~~and~~ and Abed-nego, who were cast into the ^{firey} furnace, said, "God can protect us" and he did. But that is not all they said; they said, "and if not, still we will not obey the king's command." God knows what His will is. He let Francis Johnson fail in his attempt to settle in the new world, but he permitted this ~~l~~ little group to succeed at the time when it was his plan, and when it would have greatest effectiveness to follow.

We live in difficult days today. We live in days when there is a ~~con~~ concerted determination to destroy the Gospel, to cut it out from the world. We face great obstacles. But God wants us to know that whatever we face, it is not our life nor our strength, but it is His wisdom, His power, that matters, and if we stand by this Word, if we study it, if we seek to follow it to our very utmost, and if we seek to find what is stressed here, what is emphasized, what are the big teachings of the Word, and stand upon them, and not get into big arguments over little tiny points and over things of doubtful interpretation, ~~h~~ but standing on that which is clear in the Word of God. There is no knowing how God may use us to accomplish for His purposes. Let us pray.