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HOW THEY ENTERED CANAAN (A Collection of Holiness Experience Accounts) Compiled by Duane V. Maxey

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

ELIZABETH TASKER (Methodist)

The death of the lovely in character and person and pure in heart, while impoverishing earth, enriches heaven. Their good deeds ascend before God like holy incense, permeating and sanctifying society. This is especially true of those who have lived blamelessly long and beautifully personified "mothers in Israel." They who have truly honored God and the church for over threescore years are indeed the "salt of the earth," and fit meet for heaven. Few are permitted to remain on earth until they have passed fourscore years; but life is sometimes wonderfully lengthened to illustrate the beauty of holiness in old age, and furnish a type of the perfection that saints may attain to in this life before being transplanted to the bliss of heaven.

Among the more recent deaths our church and society mourn, whose excellences are worthy of the highest portraiture here outlined, was that "elect lady," Mrs. Elizabeth Tasker, the honored and devoted wife of Rev. Thomas T. Tasker, Sr.., of Philadelphia. A native of Delaware, married in 1829, and resident in Philadelphia about fifty-four years, she entered heaven in holy triumph, after a pilgrimage on earth of over eighty years. From her early married life she enjoyed the higher graces of the Holy Spirit, sometimes termed the second blessing, -- though her religious deportment was without much outward expression of feeling, but, as she often expressed it, "You know, the Holy Spirit does not operate in all hearts alike; and there is not the same manifestation." [This sentence was truncated with "manifes-" -- I added the "tion" on it and inserted a period and close quotation marks. -- DVM] From that time forward there was steady growth in the divine likeness until death, and she feasted daily on the manna of heaven.

There was a nobility of mind, as in personal appearance, that impressed others with whom she came in contact; and those who mingled with her in the family circle and society felt her molding power. Her winning ways and gentle manners made her a favorite wherever she went. These elements of character developed in her early womanhood; and to her frugal habits, wise counsels, methodical ways, and consistent Christian life doubtless much is due in helping to lay the foundation for the wonderful career of her honored and successful husband. No sacrifice with her was too great for the comfort and success of her husband. No barrier ever stood in the way of his compliance with the numerous calls of the church through her act. Nothing was allowed to be

wasted in her house, and prodigality was avoided; and yet her generosity and labors for the good of others and the glory of God were without stint or measure. With the advance of years and increase of wealth at her command she still was, as she had always been, the meek and loving disciple of the Lord.

In person she was of a fine, majestic appearance. With a countenance radiant and winning, her society was a benediction in every place. Her stalwart sons, like her devoted daughters, thought no gift that money could purchase or affliction bring too great for her to enjoy. [This sentence does not make good sense, but thus it was printed. There seems to have been a printer's errors on this page. -- DVM] No wonder they would rise up while living and call "her blessed;" and now her name and memory to them is like "ointment poured forth."

After she had passed the meridian of life her health became so impaired as to prevent her from enjoying much of the "communion of saints" in the house of God. Seemingly there was but little evidence in her movements to indicate pain as she moved in her orbit of every-day life; and yet she silently suffered without complaint. Her mission was to make others happy and contented without caring for her bodily sufferings. This sweet spirit was maintained to the last; and as she neared her fourscore years the noble structure by degrees began to crumble. First, sight failed, and suddenly her limbs yielded to the touch of time; and then in helplessness she lay on her couch for the "coming of her Lord." Under the inspiring watch-care of her devoted husband and family she lingered some time on the edge of Jordan.

Among her last utterances she said, "Home, sweet home! heavenly home! glorious home! and my home!" She raised her hands and joined her fingers together, pointing upward, and said, "O Jesus! precious Jesus! thou art mine; and always hast been since I first received thy blessing! Glory! glory! hallelujah! Praise the Lord!" Thus she triumphed till the chariot of the Lord appeared and transported her to the realms of glory.

Source: "Saintly Women And Death-Bed Triumphs" by Maxwell Pierson Gaddis

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THE END