

BRIEF SKETCH

Of Rev. Geo. Miller's Sermon at the Dedication Of the Mulberry Center U. B. Church

Sunday, July 13th, 1890

II Cor., 12th Chap., 9th verse: "And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee, and my strength is made perfect in weakness."

The first part of the text is addressed to Paul, and the second part is Paul's answer. This text may be applied to all conditions of mankind. It is wonderful indeed how God has supplied the needs of all his people in various conditions of life. * * And God has spoken these words himself to all his people in trials and sore temptation. To-day we look back on the trials, the temptations and hardships of the early followers of Christ. But in these temptations God was with them in the language of the text, "My grace is sufficient for thee." The text may be divided into just so many words. "My," then "Grace," then "sufficient," then "for thee." – God gives to every man, woman and child a special work. They cannot be changed. We each have one place to fill, and we are all adapted to that work God has given us to do. Paul was not chosen with the first 12 disciples, and he

did not enjoy their privileges. Jesus called Paul for a special work that he was especially fitted for. So God has a special work for you to do. Paul was a man, and good men are liable to temptation. It would be a wonderful person who did not make some mistakes in life. Even a man like Paul is liable to mistakes. God thought that there might be a possibility of Paul becoming vain of his great work, and thought it necessary to humble and afflict him. What the affliction was no person knows except Paul or God himself. It may have been weakness, disease or deformity. I have my opinion of the matter, but it would do no good to express it. When the affliction came, Paul went to God in prayer. The first time he prayed he received no answer, nor the second, but on the third time God came to him in the language of the text and said, "My grace shall be sufficient for thee." Would to God we could all possess the same spirit. Suppose I have an obligation of \$1000 with which to meet that debt to-morrow morning, or suppose it is but one dollar and I have one dollar with which to meet it. In each case I only have the desired amount. Therefore it costs no greater effort to meet one than it does the other. As ye prosper so God expects you to give. God does not expect too much of his children. In the old parable, the Lord gave to one servant ten talents; and to another, five, and to another, one. The first and the second took their money and put it out at interest, and when the Master returned the money had doubled itself or gained 100 per cent. So God gives to each man, woman, and child. He gives a talent to make the most of. God helps the man, God

helps the woman, the family, the church, the nation, that help themselves. The people of this church have helped themselves and God has helped them. He is helping them now. God asks us to give according to our ability. The more God has given the more He expects. We feel to-day as if we as a nation had reached the zenith of our perfection, but if we are permitted to look back 100 years hence we will have cause for astonishment at the rapid strides of progress this nation has made. Much has been given: much shall be required. Each one must do what they can in the great work of life, "And as ye sow so ye shall reap." Heaven is not attained by a single stroke; it is more like the ascending of "Jacob's ladder." We go up step by step and rung by rung, until we reach the top of the ladder. And in the language of the text, God says to every being of the universe, "My grace shall be sufficient for thee."

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By *Carolynn Miller*