

of the flood, the body of the promise to Abraham, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Prophets saw the time coming when the "wilderness should be glad," when the "mountain of the Lord's house shall be established, and all nations shall flow into it," when "Ethiopia shall stretch out her hands unto God;" when "the idols shall be cast to the moles and bats; when "the idols shall wait upon me." The great and glorious doctrine of the Incarnation, "God made manifest in the flesh," writes *Isaiah* on all either heathen or Christian morality. The doctrine of the Cross stamps "Tekel" on the power of a ~~changes~~ to wash away, or the authority of a moral code to preserve from sin. Not the Baptist alone, but every religious rite or ceremony, or doctrine, or holy aspiration of heathen or Jew pointed to Christ, saying "Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world." His mission was to save the lost, "That the world through him might be saved." It is the key, too, to the labors and privations and persecutions and martyrdom of the Apostles, who, filled with the Spirit of Christ, labored, "If by any means they might save some."

III. Again, it is our duty because we owe our present position to the Gospel of Christ. What are we but the descendants of Druidical ancestors; the inheritors of a debasing system of religion embodied in abominable savagery and human sacrifices and senseless superstitions? Whence all our grand educational, hospitable, and charitable institutions; whence the peace and joy of quiet homes and quiet citizenship; whence the look of delight in the eyes of the sorrowing; the words of forgiveness from the lips of the injured; the thoughts of comfort in the house of death; the joyous anticipation of a glorious future? It is because the cliffs of Britain, and the crags of Scotland, and the turf of Ireland have resounded in ages past with the tramp, tramp of a Gideon's army of Patricks and Augustines and Knoxes and other faithful followers of Christ, who, armed with the sword of the spirit, hearts inflamed with love of God and man, and feet sandalled with peace, won our ancestors to the truth. God was merciful: men took pity; God sent them; they said "Here am I, send me," breasted the waves of the Channel, stemmed the tides of opposition, climbed the hills, forded the lochs, and we to-day warm ourselves by the fire their labors have kindled. Because they were *faithful* we can possibly be *unfaithful*. By the grace of God we are what we are. Is there a soul here would give up our Christian civilization, our peaceful homes, our liberty of conscience, our free institutions, our restful Sabbath, our free Bible, our hopes for the future, and go back to the horrible pit whence we have been liberated? Nay, brethren; I know there is *not one*. Then I beseech you, "that ye receive not the grace of God in vain." Speed on the message, "till Jesus shall reign where'er the sun doth his successive journeys run."

IV. Because of the true idea of human relationship, embodied in and taught by an enlightened human progress as well as divine word. Not only is distance now practically annihilated by the railway, the telegraph, the cable and the telephone, but the world is becoming more