

of the sea: when the waves thereof arise He stilleth them." He "bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought! He maketh the devices of the people of none effect." (Ps. xxxiii. 10.) "Whatsoever the Lord pleaseth, that does He in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places."

And this "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof." (Ps. xli. 1, 2, 3.)

To my own mind, these Scriptures, and many others like them, settle for ever the question as to the power of second causes in the life of the children of God. And this is how the blessed Lord took things. (Matthew xi. 20, 25, 26.) They are all under the control of our Father, and nothing can touch us except with His knowledge, and by His permission. It may be the sin of man that originates the action, and therefore the thing itself cannot be said to be the will of God: but by the time it reaches us, it has become God's will *for us*, and must be accepted as directly from His hands. No man or company of men, no power in earth or heaven, can touch that soul which is abiding in Christ, without first passing through Him, and receiving the seal of His permission. If "God be for us," it matters not who may be against us; nothing can