

many languages in which they had been a sealed book. Through the agencies of the Missionary enterprize the gospel has been carried into many countries which had been hitherto the regions of darkness and "the habitations of cruelty." But all these cheering indications of the progress and triumphs of Christian truth are only the beginnings of the end. The Church of God has been and is now the Church of the minority. It has been lately stated that Britain and America are the only countries in which the Bible is free; and in these the interests of Antichrist and Paganism are served not a little. In the best parts of Christendom the faithful messengers of truth have yet to complain, "Who hath believed our report?" The broad road to perdition is still the beaten path. It is painfully true to this day, many are called; but few are chosen.

The state of Christianity, however, is not always to remain so low and limited. "The tents of Jacob" are destined to be enlarged and the standard of spirituality greatly elevated. "By whom," then, "shall Jacob arise?"

II. I shall now proceed to notice the means of Jacob's elevation and enlargement. There is no lack of resources in, and under the headship of Christ. The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof. His are the silver and gold, the men and means, and above all the residue of the Spirit, in measures sufficient to evangelize the world. He can and will supply the faith to remove mountains of difficulty; the zeal to compass sea and land to make Christians; the public spirit that scorns to take its ease until its work is done; the enterprize that fears not to sow beside all waters; and the prayers and offerings to open the windows of heaven for the dews and rains of the Spirit's influences. The legitimate resources of the Church need only to be evoked, and her latent energies fully aroused, to bring the kingdoms of this world into subjection to the "King of saints." Let Zion travail in good earnest and send forth no more false alarms, and "nations shall be born in a day." Let Christendom be only purged of its selfish inaction, and the work is as good as done.

For the elevation and enlargement of Zion to her true position there must be, first and last, the corresponding outpourings of the Spirit of God. It is not by human might or power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord. This work of grace and power begins and ends with Him "from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift." Human agencies, in proper subordination, are not excluded. It is "by the foolishness of preaching" that sinners are saved. Man is honoured as a copartner with God, in a subordinate sense, in the work of the world's conversion; but so honoured as to leave him no room, no wish, no power to "glory in his presence." The treasure is put into the earthen vessel on purpose that the excellency and power shall appear to be of God. Man is a mere instrument. In his greatest success it is his highest honour to lay all the glory at the feet of Christ. The world's regeneration is the Spirit's own work. The means and harbingers of this glorious work are to be looked for in extensive revivals of spiritual Christianity; and could we but see the renewal of the Pentecostal times on a scale of enlargement of sufficient magnitude, we might then look up and behold the Church redeemed under the aspect of the Church reclaimed, girded with her strength, arrayed with her "beautiful garments," looking forth as the morning, "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners."

Among the means of Zion's elevation and enlargement faith holds high and deserved pre-eminence. This is the bond of union and channel of communication between the Head and membership of the Church redeemed.—It furnishes the materials and motives of high communion with Christ and