

children, and they have rebelled against Me." What wonder is it that His faithful prophets, in the agony of despair at the sins of the people, turned to that material creation that was true to God's purpose and cried, "Oh earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord!"

And so, to bring the case home to ourselves, can we not feel that, as the memorial erected by Joshua was a witness against Israel by fulfilling the purpose of its existence, which Israel did not, and as, for a similar reason, the heavens and the earth, which give glory to God, are witnesses against the sinful children of men, so this Church edifice long has been, and this day is, a witness against us as a congregation? It has fulfilled the purpose for which it was designed. If the expression may be applied to material things, it has done its duty. Have we? Do we not feel that the Judge of all the earth must condemn us for the way in which, as a people, we have failed to glorify Him; for the way in which we have squandered so much upon self, and have given so little to the cause of God? Our faith in Christ has been feeble, our love to the brethren has been weak, our hope of glory has been exceeding dim. Is it too much to say that God has often derived from these mute materials of wood and stone a glory which was denied Him by many worshippers within these walls?

Brethren, if these things have been so in the past, let