

apostles, until the day dawn and the night shadows of doubt and difficulty flee away, and all see eye to eye, and feel heart to heart, under the sunshine and glow of the Sun of Righteousness, beaming in cloudless radiance on their previously benighted souls!

Let us not for a moment imagine that the alarm thus sounded is the cry of despair. Such a word is unknown to the Christian as applicable to the Church of Christ. There is one element of stability in possession of the church of our day, not referred to by Dr. Duff, which is a guaranty that the apostasy he dreads shall not, cannot be, equal in extent and depth to the great apostasies of the flood, the captivity, and the middle ages. The element of stability under God, is the printed Bible. It is a remarkable fact, in the history of the Jews, that from the time Ezra (their second Moses) called the nation to the study of the Scripture, multiplied copies of them, and set afloat the belief "that where there is no Book of the law there can be no synagogue," from that time till this time the Jews have never fallen into their besetting sin of idolatry. From this sin it was not the sorrows of their long captivity that saved them, for sin drowns—alas, how soon!—the voice of the inward witness, but it was the Bibles of Ezra, the mass meetings for Bible-reading, the Bibles in the synagogue, the testimony of the outward witness—the word of God that liveth and abideth for ever—heard every Sabbath, and multiplied on every side. Our Bibles, in every house, (would we could say in every common school, and high school and college) the Bible in every Sabbath school, in every church, in every country, in almost every language, the Bible dashing from its breast as a ship the ocean-spray, all the efforts to stop its onward progress to be THE Book of the civilized world, this Bible will be the means, under God, of saving the Church from sinking to the woeful condition whence Luther's voice awoke it. This, however, does not seem to be Dr. Duff's view; but we must not withhold, although this article is already too

long, the eloquent, cheering words with which he concludes:—

Bad as things now may be, they may yet become infinitely worse. And that such is the probability, as regards the future, is my own decided conviction and belief. But what of all that to him who calmly and securely rests on the immovable rock of Jehovah's promise?

Though to the eye of sense or of finite understanding it might look as if the powers of evil now at work really threatened to extinguish every luminary in the firmament of Divine truth, and leave the world, morally and religiously, in a state of darkness and of chaos as complete as it would be, physically, if sun, moon, and stars were wiped away from the canopy of heaven, not even then would the true believer in the Bible—that blessed book of books—be for a moment staggered. He could still cheerfully hold on his way and exultingly sing—

"Faith, mighty faith, God's promise sees,  
And looks on that alone,  
Laughs at impossibilities,  
And cries, 'It shall be done.'"

And done it shall be assuredly, in God's own good time. When the great world-wide crisis shall have reached the zenith of its development, and the hope of all but the true believer has given place to the wildest despair, as if the Lord had forsaken or forgotten the world and His own along with it, then, oh, then, will be his time for effectual interposition—

"Just at the last distressing hour  
The Lord displays delivering power;  
The mount of danger is the place  
Where we shall see surprising grace."

Surprising grace, indeed! For then will He, who is King and Governor among the nations, and, as such, has never for a moment relaxed His hold of the reins of mediatorial government, in ways of mercy and of judgment inscrutable to us now, usher this sin-laden and sin-distracted world, purged and purified, into scenes of glory surpassing fable.

And when the great design, purposed from all eternity, to which specific reference was made at the opening of this address, shall thus be consummated—when creation, providence, and redemption shall be brought to their final issue—when the decrees and dispensations of the Almighty shall be triumphantly vindicated—when Satan, the grand adversary of God and man, with his rebel angels and the spirits of the incorrigible unbeliever and hardened reprobate, with sin, and death, and hell, shall be cast for ever into the bottomless pit of perdition—when the mediatorial kingdom, or kingdom of grace, consisting of all the members of the redeemed Church—a great multitude, praised be God! as represented to the holy seer in Apocalyptic vision, which no man