

send the rod of thy strength out of Zion.' But especially are we taught by the waters issuing from the Temple, that it is from the Church that the Gospel is to go forth to bless and to save mankind. "Out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." This was literally fulfilled when the gospel began to be preached in that city, and the sound thereof went forth into all the world. But its highest and true fulfilment is seen in every age by the church being the fountain, whence issue those streams of life, which are to gladden and refresh mankind. She is the light of the world. To her has been committed the living oracles of God, and the command to her is "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

We have 2dly,—their rapid progress. The guide measured a thousand cubits (about one third of a mile) and the waters were to the ankles, at the distance of another thousand they were to the knees, after the third they were to the loins, and on the fourth measurement, "the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over." How descriptive of the Church at its infancy and its rapid increase. Before the day of Pentecost the Church was a small and feeble band. But when the Spirit was poured out from on high, 5000 were added to the Church in one day; and from that time forward "the Lord added daily to the Church of such as should be saved."—Soon the Messengers of righteousness proceeded in every direction, and every portion of the then known world witnessed the triumphs of the Cross. Under many vicissitudes that cause has still gone on, so that now there is probably more of real living piety in the world, than there has been at any time since our Lord ascended into heaven.

But the present is but the foretaste of the future. The Church has as yet only reaped the first fruits of the harvest of the world. More rapid conquests shall yet be achieved by the soldiers of Emanuel. "A nation shall be born in a day." "Behold the days come that the ploughman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed." And the dream of ambitious conquerors of universal empire, will be realized in the sway of the Prince, over every nation and every tongue.

We notice 3dly, the genial effect of the waters. The course which they are

represented as taking is toward the Dead Sea, and the whole imagery is borrowed from that scene, so remarkable for the judgements of the Most High, in the destruction of the cities of the plain. Engeddi spoken of is on the south west of that sea, and En-eglaim is supposed to be on the north east. The state of the sea is well known. Its waters are so salt that no living creature is found in them, and the very air and the ground around is so impregnated with that substance, that neither tree nor shrub nor the least sign of verdure is seen upon its borders; and the silence of death every where reigns around. But by the influx of the waters of the temple, the waters are rendered healthful and salubrious,—the sea teems with life and abundance of fish of every variety, as in the Mediterranean, tempt the labors of the fisherman, verse 9, 10. Its banks too are clothed with verdure, and by its brink, every tree that is good for food, yields its fruit every month for the nourishment and healing of the nations, verse 7, 12.

How descriptive this of the state of the world in its original condition, as dead in trespasses and sins. Not more destitute is the Dead Sea of animal and vegetable, than our world of spiritual life. Not more barren the soil of that region, as to every natural production, than our world of the fruits of righteousness. "The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no not one."

But how beneficent the change effected by the gospel. The dead live, the soul is replenished with joy and gladness—the barren soil of nature stands arrayed in the beauties of holiness. The evils of sin and the disorders of nature are rectified, righteousness and peace take the place of vice and wretchedness. Until at last mortality is swallowed up of life and all things are restored in the heavenly Paradise.—Rev. 22, 1-3.

But lastly, it is to be noticed, that amid all these blessed results, there were some places not healed, ver. 11. "But the miry places thereof, and the marshes thereof shall not be healed, they shall be given to salt." In some places the gospel meets with such a general rejection, that its preachers have to shake off the dust of their feet for a testimony against the inhabitants. Yea, wherever the gospel