

wrought? Thankfulness and praise fill our hearts at the growing empire of our king. We, however, cannot say that we have been visited with these showers. What is wrong? Have we grieved away the Spirit? Have we trusted in means, and forgot the Divine quickener? Are we so worldly-minded that we have no heart for the higher joys of the spiritual life? Shall we not consider, and turn to seek the Lord? We have had it demonstrated, that this is a time of refreshing on many a spot, hitherto barren and profitless, let us then arise and plead for the outpouring of the Spirit.

To live in an age of such wonders as those at which we have glanced, requires that we act well our part. A sense of our immense responsibility in having the lines drawn to us through such scenes, calls on us to be strong in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Living in times demanding action for the weal of the world, let the spirit of true loyalty to Christ so rouse us to effort, that when time with us shall be no longer, we shall have left nothing undone to which duty called, and grace strengthened us.

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### TRIMMING THE LAMPS.

On reaching the house of prayer one evening too early for the usual weekly meeting, and while resolving to use the spare minutes in quiet meditation, our attention was speedily arrested by the trimming of the lamps. We were struck with the manner in which a worthy brother went about this apparently little matter. He carefully examined the lamps to see what they contained, and perceiving that the oil was almost spent, he brought forward a flask from which he poured into the vessel; then he adjusted the wick, and after scrutinizing the whole he ventured to apply the light. The lamp however, did not burn, it gave forth but a faint and feeble light. Another examination took place, an unnoticed fault was detected and removed. Again the light was applied, it burned brighter but not with the full power wanted. Anew his diligence and assiduity were called forth; the lamps were screwed first in one direction, then in another, sometimes the flame was too great, again too weak; at last the desired amount of light was gained. All the while, the countenance of this brother evinced the most complete abstraction in his work; he felt the importance and necessity of producing a good light. Once and again did he withdraw a few steps, his eye not for a moment taken off the light, then he returned to lessen or increase the flame, until he gained his end.

We passed in thought from the trimming of an earthly lamp, to the necessity of keeping the lamp of spiritual life burning bright and clear. Our Saviour says, "let your loins be girded about and your lights burning." A feeble and flickering flame of Christian profession will soon go out if unsupplied with the oil of grace. How full the fountain whence grace sufficient for us is obtained! It is an inexhaustible source of supply, and runs over with blessings. We thought, that if all who profess the name of Jesus were equally assiduous as our brother with the lights in the house of God, in adjusting their lamps, how brightly the light of Christianity would shine over a benighted world. Are not the Churches represented as golden candlesticks or lamps? Their aim should be to shine as lights in the world. The light of holy living has penetrated the darkness of many a careless heart, when the strongest arguments have failed to awaken thought. Alas, that a feeble, dying light should ever be emitted by a church, yet is it not sometimes so? And what