

Apart from a living agent there can be no action in mere material things, and every movement in the world around us bears witness to the supporting power of the ever present God. While He has appointed His laws for the regulation of human life, while He gives to each man a certain power of action, yet all must sometimes admit, and the Christian will gladly acknowledge, that the living God rules over each individual life. And so, too, in the life of nations. They do not move blindly on, rising or falling by any accident ; they are led by the King of all the earth. It is in fulfilment of His will that—

“ Through the ages one increasing purpose runs,
And the thoughts of men are widened with the
process of the suns.”

Even though the nations are left to the operation of God's natural laws, yet, over and above the law, they have to do with the unseen Law-giver himself, as surely as any individual man has to do with God or God has to do with him.

Moreover, God has given us one striking example of the way in which He deals with nations, in the history of His dealings with the Jews. He specially educated that nation, that He might “do most good to all by preparing the world through it for the coming of Christ,” in whom His reign over every nation should be finally and forever acknowledged. In their history, as recorded in the Old Testament, we have not only the record of the events which befel them, but we have these events shown in relation to God's plan and purpose towards them. We find there that what God required of them was, above all things, *righteousness*, the faithful performance of His will as He was clearly revealing it to them. He sent His prophets to them, men who lived as “seeing Him who is invisible,” who came to king and priests and people denouncing doom against them if they continued to rebel against their heavenly King. He taught them that material strength and worldly wisdom could be overcome by Him, as when the beseeing