

be leavened. It has been a steady, silent, irresistible process—always onward, though not always visible, and sometimes, seemingly, retrograde. It is pervading the whole lump, yet no marked effect shall appear till the process shall be complete. Kingdoms rise and fall—moral earthquakes shake the earth—commotions, unaccountable and terrific, follow on the heels of commotions—the leaven of Christianity seems lost in the fearful and general fermentation—the sun is darkened, the moon is covered in sackcloth, the stars fall from heaven—all human affairs are thrown into perturbation, and Christianity is, from time to time, scouted from the habitations of men; yet all this is but the silent, invisible, onward, restless workings of the leaven cast over the world from the hill of Calvary. Every revolution, every commotion, war, oppression, persecution, famine, pestilence, the wrath of man, and the rage of the elements, are, under the mighty hand of God, but parts of the great fermenting process, which the world is undergoing from the leaven of Christianity.

Seasons of unpropitious appearances are, oftentimes, seasons of the most decided advancement—especially are they seasons of preparation for some onward and glorious progress. Above all these contending elements of human strife, sits serenely the Majesty of Heaven, guiding them all to the furtherance of his cause.