

cause, they lay down their lives in its defence. But what is the character of the besieger of the Christian fortress? Let every infidel answer this question, and methinks he would blush at giving a portrait of the abandoned; profligate and hopeless cohort, in the act of attacking the walls of Zion! To him who could view them from the city of our king, through the telescope of faith, they would present a chequered scene, with no leader save their individual fancy—no principle of action but a hatred of all good; and no object in view but the destruction of religion's tower and virtue's safeguard. Surely a man could not be envied his rank in such an army. At such a spectacle every honest man would say, with Phillips, "Should the ridicule of Earth, and the blasphemy of Hell assail me, I shall console myself by the contemplation of the blessed spirits, who, in the same holy cause have toiled, and shone, and suffered, in the "goodly fellowship of the saints"—in the noble army of the martyrs:—in the society of the great, and the good, and the wise, of every nation. If I err with the luminaries I have chosen for my guides, I confess myself captivated by the loveliness of their aberrations. If they err, it is in a heavenly region—If they wander, it is in the fields of light—If they aspire, it is, at all events a glorious daring; and rather than sink with Infidelity into the dust, I am content to cheat myself with their vision of Eternity. What a pleasing consolation to the disciples of Jesus, that as no system can shed a single ray of light on man's destiny save Christianity, so, no theory can prove one saying or maxim of the author of the Christian's hope false. The Bible has been the beacon rock on which hope has remained since Jesus rose. The Apostle had a vivid picture of the place where it would land him when he penned the following: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time." 1st Peter, 1: 3—5. Once more, Paul has eloquently described, the strength, end; and glory of the hope which we have presented, thus:—"Wherein God; willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath; that by two immutable things in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us; which hope we have as an anchor of the soul; both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." Heb. vi. 17—20. Within the veil is in the highest Heaven; consequently the metaphor stands thus: Jesus is the forerunner who has carried the Christian's anchor, hope with him, and as a vessel rides in safety when her anchor is fast, so the Christian who has laid hold on this hope set before