

but we say distinctly, that in-order to eternal salvation, the child, if it live and grow up, must "crucify the old man and utterly abolish the whole body of sin," and that "all things belonging to the Spirit living and growing in him, having victory over the devil, the world, and the flesh, and being endued with heavenly virtues," he will thus, and thus only, be in the end "everlastingly rewarded."

This office, therefore, only thanks God for a present promised benefit, but neither prescribes the manner in which the Holy Ghost will at any future time work on the man's heart, nor does it in any way anticipate his future and eternal state, except according to the conditions which the Scripture prescribes as necessary for all Christians.

And now, my brethren, how shall we improve this passage of God's holy word to our own use and benefit? If the air that breathes in constant motion be our blessed Lord's own symbol of His Spirit's grace, if we daily breathe and enjoy, and are sustained by the air, — how much more should we long for, how careful should we be to pray for the higher gift? Above all, how much should we strive not to provoke, resist, grieve, or quench, the Spirit of Truth, of Order, of Decency, of Beauty, of Wisdom, of Fear, of Love, Charity, Purity, and Peace; provoke Him by opposition, vex Him by neglect, quench His rays by deeds of darkness and impurity, by deeds and words of violence, by stifling the convictions of our conscience, by wilful disorder, disunion, and disobedience to any good advice; for if, even under the old covenant, "when they rebelled and vexed His Holy Spirit, he turned to be their enemy, and fought against them," how much greater the sin, how much surer and more severe the punishment, when the nobler blessing is obstinately rejected; and remember that all non-improvement of ourselves is virtually rejection of the grace which helps us to improve.

The more common and ordinary our duties in life are, "the more necessary it is" (as has been well said) "to keep up the tone of our minds to that higher region of thought and feeling, in which every work seems dignified in proportion to the ends for which, and the spirit in which, it is done."* "And what we achieve depends less on the amount of time we possess, than on the improvement of our time."

I leave the subject with one word of *warning* suitable to a generation ever boasting of superior light, yet showing too many tokens of unreality and blindness to its faults, "If ye were blind, ye should have no sin; but now ye say we see: therefore your sin remaineth." And with one word of inexpressible *comfort*: "the water that I shall give him shall be in him a fountain of water, springing up unto everlasting life." And with one word of *praise* and *trust*, fit to express our sense of God's great mercy: "All my fresh springs are in Thee!"

* J. S. Mill. Address to the Students of the University of St. Andrews.