

joy, "Though the tender mercy of our God the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness." And well might that happy song of praise burst forth from the mouth of Simeon, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation—a light to lighten the Gentiles." Our Lord, too, said concerning Himself, "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."

It is a pleasant thing for the natural eye to look upon the sun. But still more blessed is it spiritually to see and enjoy the light; to look up with the eye of faith, and behold Christ "the brightness of his Father's glory."

Such is *our* great privilege. Light is come into the world; and though many nations are still sitting in darkness, on us God's light has shone. We have heard of a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. We can read of Him on the page of Scripture. His name and His salvation are published from every pulpit. That name, so precious to every weary soul, is echoed from church to church. And on this joyful and blessed day we are specially called together to meditate on that wondrous birth at Bethlehem, and to praise God with one heart and one mouth for His unspeakable gift.

But although the day has dawned, and the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth, what of that? Are you and I the better for it? This