

climes to grasp its reality and beauty. Now, down in the valley, they lose, for a moment, the sight of what gives them inspiration. Now, loud and angry discussions arise when men describe its form as seen from varying stand-points; and Christians stop amid their pilgrimage, to curse each other because they do not think alike! Yet, onward is the march; and down by river's brink and forest's edge, o'er plain and knoll, the ages and the nations come. The mount is reached and climbed; and there, the glittering object that attracted them is revealed. It is the CROSS!

Only as the mind is educated to higher and higher stand-points, will the darkness vanish, the clouds sink beneath us, and the clear blue sky appear.

III.

The last leading thought of the text is that *our wrong opinions may be known by their disastrous effects*. "Destruction" follows them. Wrong opinions may be innocently held. By this statement, I do not mean that it is permitted to men to adhere to views that they know to be incorrect; but I mean that it is possible for a good man to be mistaken, and to think that to be true which is not so. The relative and the absolute right do not always coincide. Every man believes his opinions to be correct, or he would not hold them; but experience assures us that what we revered as truth yesterday, we may see reason to abandon to-morrow. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that—

I. Wrong opinions ever produce ruinous effects. Their evil consequences are often prevented by the superior power of some controlling truth which is held along with them; but, uncounteracted by the good, error leads to death. Let it lurk unobserved in a definition, and, long centuries afterward, its terrific harvest will be reaped by the unthinking nations. Let it show itself merely as an apparently insignificant, or even a meritorious, narrowness in the regulations of a Church; and, like a fungus, it will eat out the life of the strongest tree. Let the word "law," in the popular estimate of Paul's epistles, include morals, as well as ceremonies; and tongue cannot tell the horrid