

he possess a knowledge of Him, and that he continue wholly to delight in the Lord; it is necessary that he abound in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. That man may devote himself to the service of any object, he requires an acquaintance with that object. The Heathen, both ancient and modern, worship and serve their deities from a real or supposed knowledge of their nature. That we may serve with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, Him that liveth for ever and ever, we require an intimate acquaintance with his character and perfections. Hence it is said in the book of Job, "Acquaint thyself with him and be at peace, thereby good shall come unto thee." Solomon tells us in his book of Proverbs, xix chap. 2d v., "That the soul be without knowledge it is not good." That the mind of man be without the true knowledge of God is not only not good, but is a dangerous and fearful evil. The Prophet Hosea chap. iv. declares as a lamentable truth that the professed Israel of God is destroyed for the lack of knowledge, and that as they had rejected knowledge God would reject them, both priest and people; and as they had forgotten the law of God or become ignorant of it, God would forget their children and "the people that doth not understand shall fall."

Ignorance of God and of his ways will bring down the judgments of God upon any people, and entail them upon their children after them. For the want of this, false religions prevail amongst the greater proportion of the human family. For the want of this the true church of God has ever been persecuted in our world, and its members have had to wade through seas of persecution from men and nations ignorant of God, when if the same men and nations had been in possession of a true knowledge of God and of the high calling of the church they would most assuredly have surrendered themselves to God, and have come to the feet of the very people against whom they were kindling the hottest fires of persecution. For the want of this our world for ages has been as a slaughter house for human beings. Renowned generals have led forth their armies to the field of conflict, whilst mighty navies in their conflict for victory have caused the face of the great deep to blush with the crimson flood of human life. In the increase of religious, spiritual and saving knowledge, the clash of arms will die away, and the legions armed with power and pride, engaged in naval contests, will abandon their employment, and all warring nations of the earth will cease to make the earth drunk with each others blood. According to the Bible the knowledge of God, filling the earth as the waters do the channels of the great deep, will lead men and nations to convert their weapons of cruelty and war into implements of husbandry. In the prevalence of Divine knowledge, all nations will banish from their halls of legislation, and blot from their public records their various codes of penal laws, for through the influence of this knowledge the crimes which required punishment will cease to be committed amongst men.

For the want of this knowledge Europe for three years past, in civil wars and internal insurrections, has been reeling to and fro like a drunken man. For the want of this knowledge myriads of