

is an immense manufacturing of motives, which are constantly operating in all directions, upon every thing that thinks, in the universe. But there we approach the shores of that ocean on which no mortal man has made a voyage of discovery; and for us to infer from premises unexplored, is as arrogant as it would be ridiculous to write the details of a voyage round the universe which has never yet been made.

But to descend to the ground on which God's word and government have placed us, we are taught to pray, and taught at the same time that God is unchangeable. We are taught that the word of God is the sword of the Spirit, and that the gospel is both the wisdom and the power of God to salvation; and yet we are taught to pray for all men. But while all converting power is through the word, who can tell the thousand ways in which that word, that great moral instrument, may operate upon the minds of men, or in how many attitudes they may present themselves, or be presented, to its influences? No matter who plants, or who waters, "it is God who makes to grow." But how often does the shower fall on the field of the sluggard; how often does the dew bless the ill-farmed or uncultivated fields of the slothful;—but it fills not his barn. His stalls are empty. He begs in harvest. They only who ply themselves are blessed. The diligent become rich.

But were it not that philosophy has presumed to explain every thing, and to cut the knots which she cannot untie, I would rather remark in the following style—

God's word is the word of life. Where it is not known, believed and obeyed, there no life eternal dawns. He that has the Son of God has this life, and he is revealed in this living word. He teaches his disciples to pray for the following things:—For their daily bread; for them that despitefully use and persecute them. Thus, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do"—and Stephen, by the Holy Spirit said, "Lord, lay not this sin to their account"—"Lord Jesus receive my spirit." Paul's desire and prayer to God for Israel was, that they might be saved; and he commanded Timothy to teach the church in Ephesus to pray *for all men*: for kings, and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For as a reason, he adds—"This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, *who will have all men to be saved*, and to come to an acknowledgement of the truth." If any man lack wisdom, says James, let him ask of God who gives liberally and upbraids