

tens of thousands in every part of the globe who unhesitatingly trace a change in their whole aim and career to some portion of Scripture ; there will probably be not a few who read these lines who will know, from their own experience, or from that of others, that this is the case ; it is but recently that an intelligent *soldier*, of the Salvation Army told the writer of the passage which "fell into good ground," in his own case, and which reached him in the streets of Chicago ; seeing that this is undeniably the case, it is obviously the policy of Satan (the adversary) by means of all forms of Ecclesiasticism, *so far as practicable*, to obscure this "great power of God ;" it is therefore to be expected that, in whatsoever measure this "hammer" of the Almighty is lifted into prominence, ecclesiasticism will "gnash its teeth," for it always has hated the Bible and always will hate it, as a certain person is *reputed* (somewhat questionably we should say) to hate holy water.

Mr. W. H. Howland, the Superintendent of "Our Bible Class," touched slightly on that part of Stephen's speech which preceded the portion appointed for "the lesson ;" he observed that the circumstance of Stephen speaking disparagingly of the temple, and saying that "the Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands," tended to irritate the Jews ; and the fact of his enforcing his argument, by quoting the prophet Isaiah, would necessarily increase its pungency.

With regard to the opening verses of the lesson, Mr. Howland observed that the more true any denunciation of an unworthy person is, the more such a denunciation stings ; persons do not gnash their teeth at lies, but (we may add) will bolt them whole, provided they be sufficiently unctuous ; the example of Stephen and of Paul (Acts xiii. 10), teaches us that there may be circumstances which demand words of scathing censure ; but such words are sure to be more or less resented ; when required on the one hand, and resented on the other, Mr. H. observed that the Christian course is, like Stephen, *to look upward*, and that *believing* will result in *receiving* needed help ; he also commented on the circumstance of the crown of martyrdom having been forecast (so to speak) by the meaning of the name Stephen, *i.e.* a crown.

The same "lesson" furnishes another example of the fulness of meaning expressed by Biblical names of various kinds ; Saul (the destroyer) subsequently to his conversion, becomes Paul (the worker). Stephen looked up *steadfastly* ; it is the *unwavering upward gaze* which is rewarded by the realization of that which the bodily eye cannot see : this was illustrated by reference to the death-bed of the Rev. Mr. Tilley, of St. James', shortly before his departure, the Superintendent told us that he exclaimed—"I see the great white throne." The interesting fact of "the Son of man" being described by Stephen, as *standing* (to receive him) in contrast with the *sitting position* assigned to the Lord (Heb. i. 3), was not overlooked on this occasion, nor was that of Jesus being described by the proto-martyr (and by him as the only disciple who so speaks of him) as Son of Man ; the practical consequence of the Lord being the Son of God no less than the Son of man, encourages believers to rely on such a declaration as,—"All power is given to me in heaven and in earth ;" and enables them to apprehend that the apparent realities around them are unreal, and that the invisible things are alone real, "for the things which are seen are