

But the stone which the builders rejected, became the headstone of the corner. In his resurrection and ascension He proved how vain and impotent was their malice. His Gospel proved mighty to the pulling down of strongholds. His kingdom hath gone on from age to age, sometimes bitterly opposed, and torn, and cast down, as it were in the dust, as if it would speedily be extinguished, yet rising out of the ashes of the fire as glorious as ever, only to carry on and extend its conquests to the increase of the fame and glory of Messiah.

This, you know, has been the history of the Church of Christ down to the present time. To many He hath been "as a root out of a dry ground, having no form or comeliness, and no beauty wherefore they should desire Him." Many have fallen upon this stone, and been broken, and upon many it has fallen, only to grind them to powder; but the name of Jesus still rises in renown. And if there is anything that ought to stir the Church of Christ (by this I mean his believing people everywhere), if there is anything which ought to stimulate our zeal and fervour in behalf of the kingdom and cause of Christ, in subserviency to the grand motive, the constraining influence of the love of Christ, it is the rapidity with which the Gospel is spreading, and taking effect in the great centres of heathenism and in the islands of the sea—the fact that whilst Satan is busy sowing the seeds of infidelity and error in professedly Christian lands, stirred up to all the greater activity, because he knows that his time is short, yet the truth as it is in Jesus is shewing itself to be mighty to undermine the hoary systems of idolatry and to convert the rudest savage into the