

The mountains would be red with the blood of the slain, Israel will be amply avenged and rich with the spoil of the world. The universal kingdom thus formed will be a paradise for the Jews, and all the heathen, their subjects, will turn to Jehovah. Under the rule of righteousness the earth will be more fruitful than ever before. The most barren spots will be fertile, a single grape will load

a wagon, and men will draw wine from it as from a cask, and a kernel of wheat will be as large as the kidney of an ox. The people will be all prophets, none will be sick, blind or leprous, the dumb will speak and the deaf hear. Jerusalem will be a day's journey across, and its houses higher than anything yet known. Its gates will be precious stones, and gems throughout the country will be common things.

APPLICATION

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The former treatise have I made, v. 1. An eastern monarch became suspicious of the visits one of his officers made to an unused

The Officer's
Old Coat

room in the palace; so he entered the room at an hour when he knew the officer was there.

What did he find? A plot to overthrow his royal power? No. His officer was sitting deep in thought, clad in the rough peasant coat he used to wear before he was summoned to serve his king. When he was asked to explain why he put on his old coat, he said, "I do it that I may remember what I was before your majesty honored me. I find that this coat helps me to be humble, and grateful. It tells me what I was without you, and what I am with you". We are to forget the past, if dwelling upon it hinders us from giving our minds to our present duty. But we do well to recall how God has guided us and blessed us in bygone days, that we may give Him thanks and praise, and be filled with hope and courage for the future.

Began both to do and teach, v. 1. For generations the houses of a village were constructed on the lower banks of a river. With

ever spring thaw, there came a flood that submerged the floors of the houses, and the people would live in tents on the high ground, until the waters fell. A newcomer to the place, in a spring month, saw the foolishness of the people, and put his house on the high ground, above the destroying stream. Then he talked with his neighbors about their home-sites, until the low grounds were abandoned, and the village became a city set on a hill. To such great results did this small wise beginning lead. Each day of this new year, just begun, should see us begin to

make life better and happier for ourselves and others.

Through the Holy Ghost had given commandments, v. 2. And what commandments! A few poor, unknown fishermen of Galilee

were bidden to go and conquer the world for the new faith. But the commandments did not stand alone. Along with them came the power that would surely overcome all opposition. To each believing disciple would come the power that they had seen working in Jesus Himself, the power of God Himself.

With that power, every command was really a promise of conquest.

He charged them . . . to wait (Rev. Ver.), v. 4. It is easier to be active than to wait; but sometimes all depends upon our ability to

be patient and quiet, and willing to wait. A young lad of restless temperament met with

a serious accident to his knee. The doctors who attended him said he might have to undergo an operation to save his leg; but he had a chance of keeping the use of his leg, if he could keep still in body and avoid all complaining and fretfulness. His own power to lie contented on his bed would bring about his recovery unmaimed. The situation was frankly stated to him, and he was told that all he could do was to wait patiently. He was a Christian and knew his Bible, so he began to recall such texts as "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart" (Ps. 27:14); and, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee", Isa. 26:3. Such promises as these were his mind food during long days and nights; but there were enough, and to-day he is an eager, active man.