

secret of the cross. The word of the truth of the Gospel was long arrayed in the rich morning drapery of symbols, its Levitical coat of many colours. It was expressed and yet concealed, concealed and yet expressed, in a multitude of mysterious rites. It was uttered and illustrated in an abundant variety of typical histories. It was set to more than mortal music in the Psalms. It was proclaimed in a sphere higher than human poetry or music could reach in the visions of prophecy. Until at length, when the ancient roll was closed, and after long silence in heaven, the eternal Word came forth from the bosom of the Father, bearing a "burden" that no prophet could have borne, and sealed the long variety of revelation by giving to His church, under the keeping and interpretation of the Holy Spirit, the one perfect and unchangeable word of God. And, while He was giving His final revelation, He declared that one living testimony to Himself pervaded the ancient Scriptures. St. Peter here only echoes his Master's words. He tells us that it was the Spirit of Christ who guided the pens and excited the desires of the prophets; that they all transmitted to us one immutable Gospel which they could not themselves as yet understand. And the permanence of the living word throughout its fleeting forms was fresh in his thoughts when he wound up in the language of the text: "The methods of the preaching, and the voices of the preachers, have changed, but the word preached abideth unchangeable. The organs of revelation have passed away; but revelation has never ceased, has never been in reality suspended. The prophets died one after another, with their deep desires in their hearts, and their longing prophecies on their lips; but the word which they ministered to us, a generation more blessed and more responsible, like Him who was its end, is *the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.*"

And, as that word has given the unity of life to all

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