

as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

The state of the unrenewed. The thought of winter in relation to the other seasons, may serve to supply useful considerations to such as mourn their coldness to spiritual realities, their want of spiritual life and fruitfulness, the *wintery state of their souls*. What a striking contrast between winter and spring in the natural world. A person born blind and having his eyes opened in the depth of winter, would be amazed indeed by the great sight above and around him. But when all nature seemed changing in early spring, how peculiar, intense and admiring, would be the feelings of his uplifted heart: and what an idea it would give such an one, of some unseen power or powers producing the great and gladdening change. Now the power by which the face of the earth is annually renewed, is the same almighty power, which in mercy and through the mediatorial interposition of Christ, "the power of God," is quickening souls far and wide among the nations, and ever contributing towards the complete fulfillment of the great promise, "Israel shall blossom and bud and fill the world with fruit."

We feel certain that spring will follow the winter now begun: and this feeling of certainty we may associate in our minds with three particular facts, viz:—that God has thousands of times renewed the face of the earth—that he is able to do so in the future as he has done in the past—and that he has expressly promised to do so "while the earth remaineth." Those in a wintery state of soul, should be encouraged by the analogous truths which will readily occur to the mind. God has in thousands of instances, quickened souls to newness of life. He is able to do so in the future as he has done in the past. Indications of his merciful will in regard to such blessed changes, are clear in Scripture. "As the Father hath life in himself, so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself." "Verily I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live."

When the soul truly listens to the Saviour, it becomes speedily visited by "the day spring from on high:" and that such may become the blessed experience of such of our readers, as are not yet "renewed in the spirit of their mind," may the Father of mercies grant for the Saviour's sake.

J. E.

IS THE WORLD GETTING WORSE?

Millenarians tell us that we are not to expect the progress of right and truth under the present economy. Instead of this, things are to wax worse and worse till the second appearing of Christ, when, under his personal reign on earth, the wilderness and the solitary place shall be made glad, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. One of the agents of the Upper Canada Bible Society lately, in his address at one of the Branches of the Society, warned the audience not to expect too much from the Word. While he urged upon us to send forth the Bible, we were assured for our encouragement that "*we are going down*," and that this would continue till the second advent. Singularly out of place, thought we, from an agent of the Bible Society.

But Millenarians are not alone in their views respecting the downward tendency of the world. Many others express themselves in a similar strain, and a writer in the *Montreal Witness*, a short time ago, assures us that the