

up before young men. These are stirring times. The call to duty is loud and urgent. Young man, man immortal—live for something, do something for God, for the world, for the perishing. The Spirit of the age calls for energy, thought, intelligence, earnestness. Ten thousand avenues of ambition and usefulness open before us. Who would be willing to leave this world with the melancholy reflection that he had done nothing to leave it better than when he found it?

THE FREE SPIRIT.

If there is any one thought which is calculated to lift the weight of anxiety from the hearts of the righteous, it is this, that the heavy responsibility of the government of this world, and the ultimate triumph of righteousness, rests upon the great Creator himself. The Eternal Spirit that of old brooded upon the face of the waters, bringing order, beauty and abundance out of chaos, is still the restless worker and vigilant defender. The responsibility and agency of man is only secondary and accessory. The Spirit long ago gave to the world a disclosure of the mysteries hidden from the ages, as contained in God's Word. Revelation was developed at sundry times and in divers manners, and the development of doctrine, as contained in that same Revelation, has been going onward in increasing fulness. All this is accomplished in the fulness of time by God's free Spirit. But the operations of the Spirit are manifold, and are sprung upon the nations in ways and at times that they expect not. We need to be awake and in sympathy with the Divine to see their sudden coming, to catch them on the instant, and to array ourselves on the side of truth and righteousness, lest we perish in the condemnation of the wicked.

Who roused up the soul of humanity against the slave trade, and "set Time's great battle in array" against the powers of darkness, and brought the nations out of bondage? It was God's Spirit operating in the moral world, and spiritual life of man; there was no adequate human cause for the development of such love of righteousness. Nor was it an issue whose advent was plainly prophesied and prepared for in God's Word. We do not affirm that slavery can be defended from the Word of God. All that we affirm is that the movement arose from the free Spirit of God in the hearts of His people, who had, it is true, from His word an apprehension of the general principles of justice and righteousness. Again, what potent agent has thrust this great temperance movement upon the attention of the nations? It would be folly to affirm that the movement is of the devil. We cannot see any adequate human agency. Up to the present there is no very well formulated Scripture temperance argument. The temperance reform, however, harmon