

pears in our sky, can, by the well-known laws of nature, ascertain the path it is travelling in; if that path be an ellipsis, he will calculate the elements of its orbit, and predict to a nicety the time of its reappearance; but no astronomer or other person can predict what sort of spring and harvest there shall be next year, nor can the laws of nature reverse the least foreshadowing of any of those thousand incidents which most affect man in his moral as well as his physical interests. Our Saviour, when on earth, in teaching us to pray for forgiveness of sin, taught us also to pray that our daily bread might be given, and the whole Scripture abounds with precepts, examples, and encouragements to the same effect. Even natural religion prompts the savage to pray to his gods for success in his undertakings. The Christian never presumes to suppose that his prayers will change God's purposes; he nevertheless, trusting with confidence and simple faith in the promise, "Ask and ye shall receive," "Seek and ye shall find," attains to the happy experience in the depths of his own soul, that his prayers have been heard and answered.

Natural Science has established the undoubted fact that all life, vegetable and animal, on this earth, depends on the energy thrown off by the sun—call this energy "Solar Forces," or any name you please; and this energy must be constant and uniform, else all life would perish. The earth travelling round the sun in an orbit which is nearly circular, there are points at which the two bodies hold the same relative position on a certain day every year—say in the month of June. Astronomers will foretell with the utmost distinctness the very instant of time the two bodies arrive at that point,—the earth and sun are precisely in the same position with respect to one another they were in this time last year; they are exactly the same distance apart, and the same energy is always constant and uniform. Now it should follow, as a necessary consequence, had there been no other law in operation but that of "Solar Forces," there would be precisely the same weather this June there was last June; if last was hot and dry, or wet and cold, the present would be a repetition of the same weather, and all

the atmospheric changes could have been foretold with the like precision as the changes of the moon. It ought to be thus, if the laws of nature be constant; and because it is never found to be so, it must necessarily follow that there are *two* laws—one constant and uniform, the other as changeable and variable as the wind; the one patent and open to man's investigation, that he may see the wonders of creative power; the other concealed and hid from view, that man may feel his constant dependence on an over-ruling Providence. We believe God acts by law in all things, and executes His purposes through the instrumentality of secondary causes. "He holds all the elements of nature and grace in His hands," and moves them according to His Sovereign Will as it pleases Him, nor permits any human insight to penetrate into the secrets of His laboratory. M.

---

## Article Selected.

---

### What about the Summer?

BY REV. JOHN HALL, D. D.

The annual migration of so many of our citizens, with its good and its evil, is a part of the situation which we have to accept. It has already begun. Houses have been taken; board has been engaged; routes have been marked out; and for those who run across the seas, berths have been engaged. Any home-life that had grown up in the winter must now be sacrificed. Habits nearly six months old have now to take themselves off. Average Christians, who have found their places in churches and christian work, are now to be thrown out, and may mark themselves for the season as 'miscellaneous.'

But life is short; and there is much work to be done in it. The years are few; and on the present plan—in our great cities, at least—they are not, for the purposes of christian usefulness, more than seven months in length.

A most important consideration, therefore, arises. How can they, who have purposed and pledged themselves 'to do all to the glory of God,' redeem their