

and the judgment of God. The sovereignty of the Romans could command the chief of Israel's sons from Galilee to Judea, to be taxed and estimated like the rest of Roman property. But the Lord was at hand. The Child, who was to be for the fall and the rise of things and people, was just born.

Let us be emboldened according to God, and judge not according to flesh and blood, but by the light of the Lord. And again, I say, as the apostle teaches, it is better to be judged of the Lord, than to be condemned with the world. Judgment has begun at the house of God. He abaseth the proud and exalteth them that are cast down. The candlesticks are visited in the keen and searching power of Him whose "eyes were as a flame of fire"—and as far as we know them here on earth, there they are left—but the place of judgment proves itself to be next door to the place of glory (Rev. i.-iv.)

It is all right and comforting to faith; strange to the reasoning and religion of nature. The church will go from her ruins up to glory—the world will pass from its proudest moment of greatness to the judgment. God taketh the beggar from the dunghill to set him among princes.

Would that the saints of God were apart from the purposes and expectations of the world. "Come out of her, my people."

"The feeble saint shall win the day,
Though hell and death obstruct his way."

The Lord will vindicate His own principles, and establish His own thoughts for ever and ever, though the voices that witness them be feeble, and well nigh lost in the din of the world's exultation.

May the heart of the humbled, broken saint be comforted in Him!