

in the midst of us, ever choosing the weak things to confound the strong, that no flesh might glory in His presence, but that he who gloried, might glory only in Him. Let dispensations change as they may, or the scene shift as it may, this is always seen.

The Patriarchs were few, very few, in the land, and strangers there. They had not so much as to set their foot on, going from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people ; yet did He suffer no man to do them wrong, reproving even kings for their sakes, and saying, "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm" (Ps. cv.).

When His elect became a nation, they were the fewest of all people, not worthy of a memorial or place in the records of the world ; but they multiplied in spite of Egyptian task-masters, and then flourished into a kingdom, and became the centre of the earth and its nations, in spite of all the enmity that surrounded them. Their victories were gained by instruments of the most perfect weakness : lamps and pitchers, ox-goads, jaw bones, and slings, doing the work of the army and the war-horse, the sword and the shield ; while two would put ten thousand to flight, and trumpets of rams' horns pull down the walls of hostile cities.

And so, when times change altogether, when the nation is broken up because of its sin, and a ministry of grace and salvation goes forth, it is fishermen of Galilee, with their divine Lord, the son of a carpenter, at their head, that bear it abroad to the cities and villages of the land.

And so again, when the apostle of the Gentiles comes to speak of ministry in his day, he tells us of the weakness and foolishness of God proving stronger and wiser than man, and points to the church at Corinth as the witness of this same prin-