

Are there not in the world of morals and of spirit mighty influences operating on human life? What think ye of the Gospel and the Church, of the march of Providence and of the influences of the Divine Spirit? The wise will consider this also in the proper season, and use these powers and co-operate with them, and most glorious and blessed will be the results. Grace will yield a rich and abundant harvest of augmented powers and faculties, of enlarged usefulness, and of bliss consummated in glory. "Light is sown for the righteous and gladness for the upright in heart."

2ndly. Spring and human life both give promises which are never realized.

Fair and hopeful beginnings sometimes end in disappointment. Spring is the season of promise, but many a rich bloom of our orchard trees comes to nothing. Many cornfields which in Summer exhibited the strong green stalks in abundance have afforded but a sorry return to the agriculturist.

Alas it is so in life, as respects our children, our young in Sabbath Schools, in Bible Classes, and even as respects those who are *to appearance* receiving the good seed into their hearts. It remains to be proved whether these hopeful beginnings will come to perfection, or whether some noxious influence from evil companions, from fashion, from the world, from intemperance, may not blast the harvest and make it an heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow. Solemnly we cry, God forbid! "Instead of the fathers take the children and make them princes in the earth."

Lastly. Spring and human life neglected, involve irreparable loss.

No other season can do the work of Spring. We cannot plough and sow in Winter. It is next to useless to do so in Summer. The man who neglects his field in Spring may toil on it for many weary days without any good effect.

So there is no period in the far distant future which can be a substitute for the present. If the proper work of life is now neglected, and death summons us to another scene, we must there reap the harvest which we have sown. It may be a very wretched one, presenting nought but briars and thorns, whose end is to be burned and to form a pile for their cultivator, but the time for sowing the seeds of a *better* harvest has gone for ever. "Be not deceived. God is not mocked. What a man soweth that shall he reap. He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

PROVIDENCE IN REFERENCE TO NATIONS.

An Extract from a Lecture delivered before the Halifax Young Men's Christian Association,

BY REV. P. G. M'GREGOR.

I turn to the *Opium traffic* of India and ask *is it peculiar to the generation past?* Has it passed away or are its proportions less colossal than the national crimes last named? Is the mighty power of Mammon to destroy the preceptions of Christian men and induce them to be silent, when great wrong is being perpetrated in their name, less visible? The fact is, that ninety years ago this trade to China in Opium was a mere rill, now it is a rolling river. It increased during the lives of our fathers, but it has become gigantic during our own. Already it is such, both in character and in magnitude, that it may well cause every Briton to hang his head for very shame. It has few parallels. The Slave traffic is indeed a parallel, but it is