

who have given heed to the counsels of worldly politicians, and cast off the fear of God, and among whom selfishness and ambition had become the sole principles that influenced the public mind, and there in the anarchy and slaughter which desolated the land, and menaced mankind with a long night of discord and violence, it would be found that such men, in reference to the body politic, were miserable comforters, physicians of no value. The tendencies of irreligion are all towards evil, and when it becomes general among a people, the evil is so vast and complicated to be described or conceived. The apostle Paul presents us, at the close of the first chapter of his epistle to the Romans, with a black catalogue of the sins of the polite nations of antiquity, and these, their evil doings, as every one knows, led to their downfall, and to the ingress of barbarous nations on their ruins, so that darkness again covered the earth, and gross darkness the people. Little do those would-be politicians understand what they do, when they go about to pour out their vulgar ribaldry against the godly of the land, who bear a testimony to the truth and excellency of the scriptures, and wait on the Lord in his sanctuary. If numbers would convert this province into a great nation, the thing may be easily and speedily effected; but it is not difficult to understand what kind of nation that would be, where the Sabbath is desecrated and the sanctuary despised. The relations of life, which, when purified by the doctrines and precepts of the gospel, are like golden hinges, on which revolve all that is orderly and graceful in society, become only instruments of ruin, producing wretchedness and calamity over the length and breadth of a land.—And though there might never be the turmoil of anarchy, even this were preferable to the reign of folly and death from generation to generation.

It would, doubtless, be wrong to say of the professing church as a body, that she is wholly the salt of the earth, but it is within her pale that it is to be found, and not in the assemblies of men glorying in their shame. O! it were enough to arouse a man to live like the Baptist, in plainest garb, and on food of the coarsest kind, to sound with more effect an alarm in the ears of men, who make their riches a ground for despising the sanctuary, wherein their fathers worshipped. They may flatter themselves they are the friends of the country, but in truth

they are its most cruel enemies, for they are confirming the depraved in their depravity, and the profane in their profaneness. They are weakening the hands of the faithful, and they are teaching the young and inexperienced to forsake the paths of wisdom and of holiness.—And, O! if it be a truth, that God rules in the armies of heaven, and among men, the policy of such men, if it be ever acted upon, will in the end be found to be wormwood and gall.

But, at this season, when another year has fled away, we would rather wish to direct the minds of our friends to things more nearly concerning us as individuals. Though every day is fitted to teach us the lesson, that our time is short, yet the close of another year is fitted to teach us this truth with a peculiar emphasis. A day is such a short space of time, that we are apt to allow one after another to pass away without any notice or concern; but a year is a cycle made up of many days,—it is felt to be a part of our time upon earth,—and when the close of the year has come round, we seem as if we had advanced nearer to the grave, and are ready to say with the Patriarch, “when a few years are come, we shall go the way whence we shall not return.” And here we are reminded of a passage in a sermon preached by the late Dr. Jones in Edinburgh, on the fiftieth anniversary of the commencement of his ministrations in Scotland. The text was Zech. i, 5, “Your fathers, where are they, and the prophets, do they live for ever?” The passage is from the close of the discourse, and is fitted to shew what a change a few years make, in emptying houses of their inmates, and, as we may say, cities of their inhabitants. It reads to us the lesson,—“be ye always ready.” “In the year 1779,” says Dr. Jones, “just fifty years ago YESTERDAY, I first was permitted to enter into this house. The impression made upon my mind was strong and solemn; and it has never been effaced. On *this* day fifty years ago, I first ascended the place from which I am now addressing you, and opened my mouth with a desire, I trust, to utter what was right in the sight of God, by illustrating his mercy and grace to a fallen world. I chose for my text the declaration of the holy apostle Paul, ‘I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.’ There was before me an immense concourse of people. This church was built to accommodate nearly eighteen hundred