

swiftest currents, and bid defiance to the strongest gales when traversing rivers and waters of limited extent, the possibility of crossing the Atlantic, and making it subservient to the interests of commerce and civilization, by visiting distant islands and continents, was doubted by many, and by some of scientific celebrity was rejected as a visionary theory; but now "floating palaces" are driven by this wonderful agency, and give the adventurous traveller opportunities of glancing at every land on the face of the globe. Thus the productions of all nations can be rapidly distributed among the most distant communities.

Missionary work, though not an invention of man, but a revelation from God, has not been exempt from hostile influences. Its author himself was "despised and rejected of men." His doctrines were rejected also; but in spite of all rancour and contempt "many believed on Him." The Gospel He preached was committed to faithful men, with the injunction they were to go into all the world and deliver the glorious truths which it contained; this is the foundation of our duty. We are not to question the wisdom, and, least of all, the goodness of Him who gives the command, for He wills it that all men should be saved; but, according to our ability, widen the boundaries of his kingdom by sending forth the messengers of the churches to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ. This has never been done without arousing formidable enemies, Satanic and human; to overcome these the Captain of our Salvation clothes His people with offensive and defensive armour; and to the patient and persevering worker in His vineyard, bearing His standard, He says: "Be thou faithful into death and I will give thee a crown of life."—*Rev. ii. 10.* The certainty of the Gospel's universal triumph is a cheering incentive to all engaged in Christian servitude: "His name shall endure for ever; His name shall be continued as long as the sun, and men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed."—*Ps. lxxii. 17.* "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heavens, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him."—*Dan. vii. 27.* And "The kingdoms of the world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever."—*Rev. xi. 15.*

"Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
The weary find eternal rest;
And all the sons of want are blessed."

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