

any living thing must give pleasure, and impart beautiful lessons of instruction and comfort. A man cannot look upon a noble tree, and call to mind the various instrumentalities, in the hand of God, which contributed to give it strength, beauty, and symmetry—the winds which fanned it, the storms which shook it, making it anchor itself more firmly in the soil, the rains and dews which moistened and refreshed it, and the sun which warmed it, making it bud and expand through many years—without feeling his pulses quickened and his interest increased. How much more are all our faculties aroused and stimulated, when we trace the growth and development of an immortal being, so fearfully and wonderfully made! And in a yet higher degree is this realized, when we are following the history of an organization like the Church, for here the hand of God can be clearly seen. On the Church of Christ, the image of her divine Redeemer is distinctly impressed, and at every step of her advance we trace his footsteps by her side. It is the presence of God in history which gives to its lessons special significance and value. History has been called “philosophy teaching by example;” it had much better be called, God teaching by examples. If the events transpiring around us and even life itself, are but fevered struggles, cut off from connection with the past, and carrying with them no real lesson for the future, then indeed the life, whether of individuals or of societies, is but a tangled skein not worth unravelling. But if we are assured that in all which