

and lowering superstitions, hoary with the rime of centuries, are swiftly swept away or ground down to the earth, as the pine on the mountain side is crushed under the avalanche—"that thunderbolt of snow." The fetters of the slave are broken. Light gleams into the deep darkness. Freedom rears aloft in the light of day her ransomed banners.

From the mountain-side flow down the gentle silvery rills that water the vines beside the sheltered cottages in the far-withdrawing valleys, and the cool refreshing breeze that carries health and joy to the pale cheek of the invalid. It is an inexhaustible storehouse of blessing and beauty to all who rest under its shadow. But from the same mountain rush down the fierce flooding torrents, the mighty tornado, and the resistless avalanche. In like manner the righteousness of God is manifest in the sunshine of prosperity, in the amenities of social life, in the joy that falls to the lot of all who love Him; and it is equally manifest in the wars and desolations, the plagues and catastrophes, that darken the history of the world.

The Avenger of the poor, the meek and the humble, ever liveth. The victory of pride and godless power is but short-lived. "There are the workers of iniquity fallen: they are cast down and shall not be able to rise."

How complete seemed the triumph of priest, and ruler, and Roman governor, of satan, and death, and hell, when Jesus died on Calvary, and when He was buried out of human sight! Yet how short-lived and how false! In that very death, God's righteousness shone forth as it never did before; and in the confusion and overthrow of Christ's foes, and in the redemption of Christ's people, that righteousness has been gloriously illustrated till now, and shall be till the end of the world.

YOUR LABOUR IS NOT IN VAIN.

When we consider the weakness of our own efforts to do good, the shortness of the time at our disposal, the slight effects that seem to flow from our toil, we are apt to be

utterly disheartened and to cry out, "I have spent my strength for nought and my labour for that which profiteth not." We feel as if we had been "dropping buckets into empty wells and growing old in drawing nothing up." How welcome and how needful in such circumstances the divinely inspired assurance that our labour is not in vain in the Lord!

No faithful Gospel sermon has ever been preached in vain. It has either warned a sinner or comforted and edified a saint. Its results may never be heard of or identified and traced to their causes; yet they exist, and are not unmarked by God. Every shower in the summer time tells on the harvest; nay, every drop of every shower has its errand and its work,—it is a blessing to some tiny blade, or drooping petal, that thirsts for it, and that is bettered by its gentle visit. So is it with God's truth; it never returns to Him without having produced some effect upon undying souls. This consideration should be a source of inexhaustible encouragement to ministers of the Gospel. However hard the soil, however brazen the sky, let them but sow the seed, and some at least shall bring forth fruit unto eternal life. Your sermons, your instructions, may be doing good long after your own day of work is over, and you have entered into the joy of your Lord. It has been so in myriads of instances: it shall be so till the end of the world.

The same principle applies to every labourer in the Lord's vineyard. The instructions of the faithful teacher in the common school, or in the Sabbath school, are often affectionately remembered for scores of years. And even when the labourer is forgotten, the labour remains and has its effect. The person to whom you unveil a new truth is forever different in his mind from what he was before he had received that truth. The difference may be very slight, but it is real and indelible. Truth is one, however varied its aspects; and so if you impart *one* truth, one aspect, portion, or new shade of truth, to any person, you make him your debtor to an extent that neither he nor you can calculate. For truth ever seeks to complete and unify