

ferred upon him, salvation through the Saviour stands pre-eminent, being a final restoration from the power of sin and death, and a surety of his partaking of the everlasting blessedness of heaven.

By the violation of the covenant of works by our first earthly parents in Eden, they and all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation were doomed to endless woe—for in this covenant Adam stood bound not only for himself, but for all his descendants,—and by his one act of disobedience we all fell from the holy and happy state in which God created us. Divine justice then demanded satisfaction for the infringement of the law, and would have inflicted punishment upon the criminals for their disobedience,—but at this fearful crisis the sweet voice of mercy was heard saying, “Deliver from going down to the pit, for I have found a ransom.” Then were some of the eternal counsellings of the Trinity first revealed to mortal ears, “The seed of the woman shall bruise the head of the serpent; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” This is the solid and sure foundation on which our Gospel stands,—of this material is it built,—and is so constructed as to suit the deepest needs of the human soul. Its system is perfect,—its influence most powerful and benign,—and its intentions are most merciful. Its aim is to elevate and refine,—to ennoble and purify,—to seek and save. In mystical rites and symbols—in expressive type and figure, it appeared in the earlier dispensations, and acted for long in that form to lead the believing soul to heaven. It then spoke, in words distinct and clear, of Him who is its author and origin,—its life and soul. The Messiah who was to come— it pointed to Him as the Redeemer of His people—the Atonement to divine justice, who was one day to shed His blood on Calvary hill,—and its announcement of the fulfilment of these predictions is what gives it its name. The good news that the only eternal Son of the Highest has come on earth as a man, and has suffered and died for sinful men, is the best information which has ever been disclosed to mortals,—inasmuch as the greatest good to them is contained in it,—and this good news our Gospel contains and declares. It comes to all with an authority, which it is not safe to challenge or reject,—for by doing so, it is but an effort to call in question and set aside its Great Author—our Creator, Preserver and Redeemer—and thus virtually effect the destruction of our soul,—heaven and earth shall pass away, but the Word of God shall never pass away. Of all the arguments which the infidel has brought against it for so many ages—of the neglect which the world in general has shown it for so long—of the vast amount of detraction and contempt used by its enemies, for the purpose of overturning it, and killing its usefulness, the result is that not one jot or tittle of it has

been injured—not one failing or flaw has been found in the whole system—and our glorious Gospel stands now as solid and firm, and as incapable of being destroyed, as it was on the day when the last of its inspired writers concluded the sacred narrative—and it will continue so forever, for it is the truth of God, and his power unto salvation.

Like gold refined and purified from having passed through the fiery furnace, our Gospel also shines the brighter from having withstood, uninjured in the least, the severe scrutiny through which it has passed—and the malicious trials to which it has been subjected. Its voice still sounds sweet and clear in many lands,—its benign influence is still felt over many countries,—it still proclaims pardon and peace to the greatest sinner, by the simple enunciation—“Believe and live.” Like a perpetual fountain casting forth its pure and cool water in streams, our Gospel is ever refreshing the thirsty soul that has grace given it to come and drink,—like a continuous feast ever prepared, it is always affording delicious sustenance to every hungry soul which desires to be filled with God's goodness,—like the warm and genial noon-day sun, it is ever affording spiritual light and comfort to the soul rescued from the darkness and degradation of sin and Satan. It has a full supply for all spiritual wants, and an abundant gratification for every pious wish.

To the sinning soul it calls for repentance and reformation,—to the troubled soul it speaks peace and comfort,—and to the converted soul it affords unspeakable delight and joy. It does not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax—but its great aim is, to bring all men in gentleness and love to Jesus for salvation. It teaches us how to live, and how to die,—how to escape hell, and how to obtain heaven,—how to be happy here and hereafter. It is the grand instrument in the hands of the Holy Spirit, by which he effects conversion, and thus saves sinners from endless torment,—it is the solemn voice of God speaking in words plain and distinct to every intelligent human creature—and addressed to all men, saying—“Turn ye, why will ye die,”—it is the divine finger post placed at the side of our path through life, pointing to heaven, and having inscribed on it—“This is the way, walk ye in it,”—it tells that “there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.”

Our glorious Gospel ascribes to Him the glory due to His name,—narrating faithfully His divine connection,—His eternal Sonship, co-equal with the Father and the Holy Ghost,—His merciful design in becoming the Dayman between an offended God, and His erring human creatures,—His assuming the human nature, but without sin, and uniting it to His divine nature in one person, in order that he might completely work out the