

ness of God to his promises. He had said to Jerusalem, "Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundations shall be laid." Isa. xlv. 28. The accomplishment of this word was brought about in such a way as to convince all beholders, both friends and foes, that the deliverance was not from man, but from God.

This is the ordinary method of divine operation. "The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted." Isa. ii. 11.

It was exemplified in the return from the Babylonian captivity. "Then said they among the heathen: The Lord hath done great things for them. The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."—Ps. cxxxvi. 1—3.

It was acknowledged in Apostolic times. The letters of the apostle Paul are full of this sentiment. That the apostle always confessed, with the deepest humility, his dependence on divine power, and ascribed to God the glory of all success. "I have planted; Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase?" 1 Cor. iii. 6—7.

Similar illustrations might be adduced from the history of the church. Ecclesiastical history is a running commentary on our text. The annals of the Reformation in the sixteenth century, and of Missionary enterprise during the last fifty years, furnish striking instances of those extraordinary interferences on behalf of the cause which baffled human calculation, confounded enemies, gladdened friends, and compel all to say, "This is the finger of God."

We are engaged in the work to which Apostles, Martyrs, and Reformers devoted their best energies. Ultimate success is sure. Primitive Christianity must be restored. Corruption, superstition, and idol-worship, in all their various forms, whether Popish or Protestant, must be driven away like the chaff before the whirlwind. A long and lengthened conflict may precede the final victory, but perhaps the freedom of the church will not be accomplished without important political changes and extensive reorganizations. Be that as it may, the Lord Jesus must reign; he has subdued all his enemies, overturned every idol, every christian system, and "broken in pieces the oppressor." Then will the heavens sing, and the earth be glad, because