

He touched the mountains and they smoked, and the rocks melted away through fear, what will it be when He comes from the south, and the holy one from Mount Pharan, but that as the prophet Habacuc describes it, nations should be melted, and the ancient mountains crushed to pieces, and the entire deep should put forth its voice and lift up its hands? (cap. iii.)

No, the understanding of man could have formed no estimate of that display of magnificence which consists in abasement, or of that exhibition of might which acts in silence and without sensible effort. Even in the visible world there is as much of power, and more of glorious, because beneficent, exercise thereof, in one drop of dew, that refreshes and helps to form the flower hidden in the grass, than there is in the earthquake that overthrows the solidest works of man's hand: and yet the one passes unheeded, while the latter fills nations with amazement. And so is there more of marvel, of grandeur, and of glory in that silent descent of the Eternal Word on earth, "as the rain upon the fleece, and as showers falling gently upon the earth" (Ps. lxxi. 6), than there could have been in the utmost extension of His almighty arm.

In fact, my brethren, it is matter of mere human prudence and reasonable calculation, to proportion the means employed to the greatness of the ends proposed. Even in things beyond our reach we can estimate this ratio. When we know that God hath taken an enterprise in hand—when He hath pledged His power to its success, we can be surprised at nothing more. Whether it be the destruction of armies by one night's pestilence, or the overthrow of a city's walls by a trum-