

The angelic orders, and inferior creatures mute,
Irrational and brute.
Nor do I name of men the common rout,
That wander loose about
Grow up and perish, as the summer fly,
Heads without name no more remembered,
But such as thou hast solemnly elected,
With gifts and graces eminently adorned
To some great work, thy glory,
And people's safety, which in part they effect ;
Yet toward these thus dignified, thou oft,
Amidst their height of noon,
Change'st thy countenance, and thy hand with no regard
Of highest favors past
From thee on them, or them to thee of service."

The first indication that the man has come to his right mind is that he learns to avoid sin. Delilah, the incarnation of subtle temptation returns, but Samson is proof against her false smiles and heartless coquetries. But how intense is the pain endured, when the sin that he has nourished, turns like a wild beast to rend him. What disillusionment, what heartache does that hour hold, when the mask of deceit is removed, and the treachery and malice hidden beneath exposed. Her confession of her fault, the student of Milton will observe, is in unhappy contrast with that of Eve in 'Paradise Lost.'

But he, who has fought and won the spiritual battle, feels again the stirring of the spirit within. What that presence may presage he does not clearly know. It kindles the olden zeal for Jehovah. It strengthens the splendid fortitude of mind which no calamity can overcome. Once more the blind champion throws down the gage of battle to Philistinism in the person of the giant Harapha of Gath, and the grim son of Anak dare not accept the challenge.

But the end is near. Philistinism, ancient or modern, inevitably over-reaches itself. It does not know that God has heard the heart-broken confession of his servant, and has given him back his strength. Drunken and insolent with wine, the worshippers of Dagon call for their captive to make sport for them. At first Samson refuses to thus desecrate his powers, but suddenly he loses his reluctance and consents. Infatuation urges his cruel captors to their own destruction. Their triumph after all shall only be short lived. Here Milton strikes the final