

cause the seed which she casts into many an open furrow to spring up with glorious increase. The results of such an outpouring would be most blessed. Under its vivifying influence every plant of righteousness would revive. Personal religion would revive, and "love, joy, and peace" abound in every believing heart; family religion would revive, and "upon every dwelling place of Zion" the "glory" would "be for a defence;" zeal for God would revive, and evangelistic efforts multiply with coming years; the spirit of liberality would revive, and the Church be no longer crippled in her efforts to overtake the world's necessities; the spirit of consecration would revive, and labourers would flock to the vineyard, saying, "Lord, here am I; send me." In a word, pentecostal religion would revive, and under its mighty impulse the world would soon be won for Christ.

If the world is ever to be evangelised, such showers must come; and that they *will* come, the promises of God's word plainly show. For thus saith the Lord, "I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing, and I will cause the shower to come down in his season: there shall be showers of blessing." And again: "Be glad, then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain, in the first month." The figure is suggestive: the *former* rain came usually just before sowing, to prepare the soil: the *latter* rain just before harvest, to fill out and mature the grain. The "former" rain we have had. The world is ready for the gospel; but now we wait for the "latter" rain, which brings the "joy of harvest" in its train.

By certain atmospheric changes we know when rain is coming; so there are signs in the spiritual atmosphere which indicate that "times of refreshing" are at hand.

*A spirit of hopeful expectancy is abroad.* It is a significant fact that although scepticism was never more flippant in speech or more scoffing in spirit than to-day, Christians were never so hopeful of the world's conversion. On every hand there is a confident expectation of a speedy and unusual outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This expectation is prophetic. It foretokens the coming shower. Many an earnest watcher has caught sight of the "cloud no bigger than a