

force of Christ in human history. The presence of the incarnate God in human affairs—incarnated in the inspired Word and in the life of the Church, and acting as the one vital and all-controlling force in providence and in the Holy Spirit's dispensation—is a precious fact and one of tremendous import. He may be "hid" to the unbelieving multitude. He may pass in and out of the "temple" of truth and life, and not be recognized. He may "go through the midst" of the earth in the kingly tread of "the God-Man," "the one Mediator," "conquering and to conquer," by His matchless love and grace; or, in the terrible acts of His omnipotent justice, correcting, punishing, disciplining the nations in righteousness, and yet the world take no note of His presence and providential arraignment. Infidel scientists are doing their utmost to erase the finger of God from His handiwork, and infidel scoffers to wipe out the record of the Cross: but more and more, as science penetrates into the arcana of nature and nature's laws, the divine hand of the Creator is there made visible. Amid the sneers and blatant prophecies of infidelity, the one all-potential Presence, and the one all-controlling Force in the world and in human history, to-day, is the presence and the power of the divine Son of God

dwelling in His redeemed Church, regnant over human hearts, and vitalizing all the elements of truth, virtue and righteousness which exist in the earth.

FATAL SIGNIFICANCE OF A HINDLOOK.

No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.—Luke ix: 62.

The straightness and depth of the furrow depend in a great degree upon the plowman's eye being kept on the foreground. The professed Christian, to demonstrate his sincerity, to do his work effectually, and to prove his adaptedness for a higher sphere, must keep his face Zionward. Because, if he looks back, he shows

I. That he is not deeply interested and fully occupied by the employment in which he is professedly engaged.

II. That the ties of his earthly relationships are stronger than those which bind him to heavenly things.

III. That he has surrendered himself to temptation.

CONCLUSION.—As the first look to Christ and the first step toward the cross are encouraging and hopeful, so the first look away from the Savior, and the first step aside from the path of duty are discouraging, dangerous, appalling. Apostasy is thus reached by an accelerating motion.

LIVING ISSUES FOR PULPIT TREATMENT.

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."—Isa. lviii: 1.

The Heredity of Intemperance.

"The phrensy of hereditary fever has raged in the human blood, transmitted from sire to son, and rekindled in every generation by fresh draughts of liquid flame."—N. HAWTHORNE.

... visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.—Exod. xx: 5.

Is the March number of **THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY** we exhibited some startling statistics and facts, showing the fearful cost of the one evil of Intemperance in the matter of dollars and cents. Appalling as that exhibit was, it gave only a single view of this monstrous

iniquity—a single item in the terrible indictment brought against it in the name of humanity and religion and the well-being of society. We present here another view, and from a higher plane, which shows the blighting effect of alcohol in the line of hereditary transmission, both of the thirst itself and of the pathological changes caused by the indulgence of intoxicants. While this branch of the subject has not been as thoroughly investigated as the cost of intemperance and the physical evils directly caused by it, yet sufficient facts have been established, both in England and in this country, to constitute a