

full on the intolerable brightness, and to commune with *Him* face to face. From this came their contempt of earthly distinctions. The difference between the greatest and meanest of mankind seemed to vanish, when compared with the boundless interval which separated the whole race from *Him* on whom their own eyes were constantly fixed. They recognized no title to superiority but the divine favor, and themselves confident of that they despised all the blandishments and dignities of the world. If their names were not found in the registers of heralds they felt assured they were recorded in the Book of Life. If their steps were not attended by a splendid train of obsequious menials, legions of ministering angels had charge over them. Their palaces were houses not made with hands; their diadems, crowns of glory that should never fade away. On the rich and the eloquent, on nobles and priests they looked down with mingled pity and contempt, for they esteemed themselves rich in a more precious treasure, and eloquent in a more sublime language; nobles by the right of a new creation, and priests by the imposition of a mightier hand. In their estimation, the very meanest of themselves was a being, to whose fate a mysterious and terrible importance belonged,—on whose slightest action the spirits of light and darkness looked with anxious interest, who had been destined before the heavens and the earth were created to enjoy a felicity which should continue when heaven and earth should have passed away. Events, which short-sighted politicians ascribed to earthly causes, had been ordained on his account. For his sake empires had risen and flourished, and decayed. For his sake the Almighty had proclaimed his will, by the pen of the Evangelist and the harp of the Prophet. He had been rescued by no common Deliverer from the grasp of no common foe. He had been ransomed by the sweat of no vulgar agony, by the blood of no earthly sacrifice. It was for him that the sun had been darkened, that the rocks had been rent, that the dead had arisen, that all nature had shuddered at the suffering of her expiring God.

In view of such facts, and sustained by such inspiring principles,