

experience in that it cannot teach him who sows in righteousness, for how long, or for how brief a period, he must wait for the fruits of increase. It but instructs him to maintain a posture of devout expectation. Were it otherwise, man would walk by sight ; and other foundation than that of the sure Word, would be for the ground of his confidence. This much however faith does teach with unerring certainty ; that the season of full fruition is not now. " Not as though I had already attained " is the only becoming language of the most highly gifted, and largely favoured among Christians. To rejoice in hope, is the noblest gratification to which he can reach forth in this his earthly pilgrimage. Nothing so good, so replete with enjoyment here below but that he may look forward to some better thing in store for him, when the season of refreshing shall come from the presence of God. So far from being able to compute that convenient season from the progress of events, or to determine when and how God will interpose ; he is assured by many proofs not hard to be understood, that God's ways are not as our ways, nor His thoughts as our thoughts. Who can have studied the history of the Church or of the World, and have failed to perceive how that mightiest results have followed from causes which seemed in no way fitted to produce them ? how that plans the most wisely matured have come to nought ? and how that benefit has accrued, large and enduring benefit, when the agency employed had been all too plainly shapen in wickedness, and only overruled through some mightier influence, to the glory of God ?—and this, not once and again, but so frequently, and so commonly, as to have been almost a characteristic feature of every, the brightest reformation ?

One great lesson may be learned from all God's dealings to us-ward ; that He would have us not to glory but in the Lord.

It is in mercy therefore to our weakness that the season of ingathering the first fruits of harvest is only revealed to faith ; lest we, if at any time highly favoured, should be prompted to say : " Our skill and the might of our hands, have gotten us our wealth." Enough for us to know that the season is duly ordained of God, and that it will surely come and will not tarry ; and that labour as to the Lord, shall not be in vain in the Lord.

My brethren, Ever bearing this in mind that God will make good His promise, in His own good time, and in His own good way, we will now proceed to examine a little more closely the character of the incentive suggested to us. Present success may be granted in greater or less degree (perhaps some measure of success is denied to none who patiently abide the Lord)