

all shall be thine." To this also agree the words of the apostle that he is the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience. This world in which we live might be called the Satanic Paradise. They pass here the best, that is to say, the least terrible part of their existence. They know that there is a future more terrible still before them; they know that they are reserved in chains of darkness to the judgment of the great day; they know the meaning of the bottomless pit, the lake of fire, and hence we are told they believe and tremble; hence their question to the Saviour, "Art Thou come to torment us before the time?" Hence also the apocalyptic cry when the day of this dark dominion is near an end. "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you having great wrath, because he knoweth he hath but a short time."

But the passage before us not only suggests the enthronement of Satan as god of the present period, it also reminds us of his strength.

Satan is very strong. Think of the breadth of his dominion. It comprises every nation, and kingdom, and tongue. The kingdoms and empires of man are but fields compared with that over which Satan holds sway. The round world lies in the slimy coil of the old serpent.

Think also of the duration of his dominion. It has lasted ever since man fell captive at his feet in the early Paradise. Since then, how many kingdoms have come and gone, how many empires have waxed and waned, how many races have lived and died in every corner of the globe. The oldest empires on earth are but of yesterday, compared with the hoary dominion of the prince of darkness. That he so long as well as so universally retains his power on earth, is surely proof of his great might.

Think also of the depth of his dominion. It is not only broad, comprehending the whole race of mankind; it is not only long, sweeping irresistably through all the ages of the world's history: it is also very deep, extending to every thing that sinners do, or speak, or think, or feel, or will. Its subtle power reaches down to the deepest part of our nature. Earthly powers can only take cognizance of human words and deeds. In the most despotic governments thought is free, but Satan's dominion extends to the