

3rdly. The Spring, by revealing preparation and forethought, illustrates the Wisdom of God.

The change it has been remarked is soon accomplished, but Divine wisdom has been long preparing for it. The earth has for months been coming to that position relative to the sun which produces the desired change of temperature. The buds which are at this moment opening were prepared during the Autumn past. Even Winter has been a preparation for Spring as Spring is for Summer, and so each Divine dispensation in the Church's history, has its own place, and constitutes a step toward a higher stage in the development of the Divine plans; and thus are we ourselves preparing, or being prepared, by the enlargement and purification and refinement of our faculties, for a nobler state of being.

Providence broke up the fallow ground at the Reformation and at Pentecost. Go farther back to the captivity and the age which followed, or come down to the "Great Awakening" of the present time (oh that it were more prevalent in this Province), and the same truth may be affirmed. Preparation and plan and merciful design are visible on the part of the all wise, all gracious Ruler.

4thly. The Spring displays the Divine Faithfulness.

Six thousand years ago a promise was given of the periodical return of summer and winter, seed time and harvest. During that time He who promised has never neglected the work of Spring and has never been behind his time. Our fears are often excited, possibly our murmurs expressed, but the faithful One, with infinite ease, and calmness, at the appointed time causes the ice and snow to disappear and the land to assume its Summer costume.

And now the Spring has come. It is felt on alps and on glaciers. It is felt on meadows and prairies, and *we know* that Summer approaches. So we know that the Church's Spring season draws nigh. We look for *conversions* in vastly increasing numbers. We look not only for recruits to Messiah, but for the standing up of *an army* in many a valley of vision. We know that "they of the city shall flourish as the grass of the earth." We look for *union* among Christ's followers. We look for the "inbringing of Israel." We look for the eradication of plants, of error, for the destruction of false systems. We look for Millenium. We look for that *Blessed Hope*, the appearing of the Great God, even our Saviour, who shall produce by his appearing the most glorious of all revivals. And what is the ground of our confident expectation? The mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. As day and night are ever proclaiming his faithfulness, as spring and summer and autumn and winter are continually assuring us that all his promises are remembered and will be performed, we comfort one another with these words, "God is not a man that he should lie, nor the Son of man that he should repent. Hath he said it and shall he not do it? Hath he spoken and shall he not make it good?"

II. Let us look on Spring as an Emblem of Human Life.

1st. Spring and human life present vast capabilities of improvement.

How constantly and intensely occupied is every wise agriculturist and horticulturist at this season. He knows that his harvest will bear a proportion to the skill and industry which he now puts forth. He knows that the soil, the showers, the dew, the sun, at this season have special influences on the future. It is the part of wisdom to consider this in time, and to use these powers and co-operate with them. By pursuing such a course nature will yield him wonderful results in a joyful harvest.