

was ambitious. He longed, not to be first to govern, but first to serve his fellow-creatures : to spend and to be spent for man. Ambition he had, but it made him the first and the greatest spirit of his age. It taught him to be humble after his ascent to heaven, and to be exalted after his imprisonment in the dungeons of Philippi. It made him, not the flatterer, but the stern rebuker of kings ; while in his obedience to God, he emulated the prophets of the past, and competed even with the angels themselves in his unwearying service of love. Ambition ! Yes, it was the holy chastened desire to be first in the praise of God, to outstrip the world in the mighty race, and before the great cloud of witnesses, to reach the goal ahead of all mankind. It was ambition, kindled by the Holy Ghost, filling his soul, enlarging his mind, and urging him on to win the noblest crown ever placed on the brow of man.

*St. Paul's constancy ought also to be noticed.*

He stood alone at Athens. High over the majestic Parthenon glittered the form of Minerva Promachus. Around him stood the sculptured deities of heroic Greece. Philosophers, poets, statesmen, orators and priests, all bent the knee to some imaginary god or tutelary hero. No heart was friendly Yet, alone as he was, he rose, and in the midst of that most idolatrous people, and with all their deities gazing down upon him, he preached, "the unknown God." Now was the time to waver when all the seductions