

He is coming to his doubting, perplexed Church. But God's ways are not our ways; for "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty; and base things of the world and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not to bring to nought things that are." Yes, Christian disciples, even in this degradation, insult and death of your beloved Jesus, He is coming to you. Coming to you, not indeed as ye *expected* but as ye *needed*. And when the Comforter came, this was the comfort He brought.—He took of the things of God and shewed them to their souls. He revealed to them Jesus, as the Son of God and the Saviour of the world, and then Peter could stand up and say,—"Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ;" and again, "This Jesus whom ye slew and hanged on a tree, Him hath God exalted a Prince and a Saviour to give repentance to Israel and remission of sins."

My friends you see here the manner of Christ's coming to His disciples. If ye are the disciples of Christ, to you there is the same promise, and the same consolation. Christ, though he has come into the world, and has again returned to heaven, has not yet come to all that are in the world or all that hear of Him. To each single individual of you, if ye would be Christians, Christ must come step by step as He came to these apostles. Has Christ come to you yet? Or is He now coming? Or has He at all begun to come? Can you say I am not an orphan now, I am a son, a daughter, for Christ has come to me, is near me, is with me, is in me.

Christ comes to you, just in proportion as you come to Him, and you come to Him in the degree that He comes to you. Oh! my friends attend to the steps of Christ's coming to you. He never comes but to the lowly, and humbled, and pierced, and broken, and mourning heart. And when He is wounding and breaking your heart, it is that, through this, He may come to you. In times of sore bereavement, He is coming to you. In the midst of disappointment, He is coming to you. When He robs you of the objects of your delight, He is coming to you. When He sends you to dwell in a strange land, and amongst strange faces, He is coming to you. When you feel weary and forlorn, He is then saying *I am coming to you*. Aye, and when, Christian disciple, you feel sad for your sins, and have remorse of conscience, He is then coming to you. Thus every humiliation, every sadness, every sorrow, may be, if properly used, only the coming to you of your precious Jesus.

"When wilt thou come to me O Lord,  
O, come my Lord most dear,  
Come nearer, nearer, nearer still,  
I am well when thou art near."

But at every step of Christ's coming you may be fleeing from him. As He approaches you may be retiring, retreating, fleeing before Him. Each affliction will, then, only harden; and oh! to