

Shall such a state of things ever be realised? and if so, by what means? To the former inquiry we answer—yes; to the latter—by the diffusion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Men who have no faith in the Word of God count this an Utopian dream. Their philosophy recognises no cause adequate to the production of so mighty an effect. They can understand how the advance of civilization, and the increase of knowledge among all classes of persons, may improve human character, so as ultimately to abolish such enormities as formal wars between nations, and also greatly to lessen the contention that prevails in private life. But beyond this they are unable to go. A time when all forms and degrees of discord shall be unknown, cannot, in their estimation, be soberly expected. But the Christian feels warranted to judge differently. When he represents to himself a state of things in which peace is universally prevalent, this is not to him a mere picture of the imagination; but he believes that the vision shall be fully and literally realised. The infallible Word of God has told him so, and has pointed out the instrumentality through which the result shall be accomplished. “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones also shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; *for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*”

An era of universal peace, therefore, consequent upon the diffusion of the knowledge of the Lord, shall yet bless our earth; and he is the peacemaker who uses his endea-