

ever attaining "the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ," God has mercifully put on record in His word the examples of our brethren in the flesh,—heirs of the same degenerate nature with ourselves,—who, in His strength, "have fought the good fight, have kept the faith, and obtained the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Nor are these illustrious examples of the inspired age the only ones commended to our notice. Blessed be God, He has never left himself without witness. In every age of His Church, He has raised up monuments of His grace who, reflecting, in a greater or less degree, "the brightness of the Redeemer's glory, and the express image of his person," have "allured their fellow-pilgrims to brighter worlds and led the way."

To these our attention is directed, not less by scripture than by God's providential dealings, for encouragement and support in our Christian course. They are, as it were, simple lessons and easy exercises for "babes in Christ," by which the believer is led on step by step to the highest attainments he can reach in this imperfect state. Harken to the Apostle's exhortation: "Be ye followers of them who through faith and patience now inherit the promises;" that is, imitate the example of those who were once poor, weak, guilty sinners like yourselves,—born with the same corrupt nature,—exposed to the same temptations, yet through the aid of Divine grace, have been enabled to overcome the world, to crucify the flesh, to triumph over Satan, and are now safe "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest."

It is in this light we are to "mark the perfect man and behold the upright;" that by "beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord," as reflected in the lives of His saints in the old time before us and in later days, we may be "changed into the same image," and finally become partakers of their blessedness. However, in