

they were also guilty of glaring inconsistency, for if they looked with favour on the efforts of their own exorcists, they of all men should be the very last to oppose Him for doing that which their sons professed to do. Having thus, by this perfectly legitimate argument *ad hominem*, silenced His adversaries, He proceeds, in the parable before us, to give the true explanation of the miracle. This world, He teaches, lies in the wicked one, and the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil. This blind and dumb one, seeing and praising, is a trophy of His power; and this miracle is a picture of His present might, in bringing souls from darkness to light; from dumb ignorance and disobedience to praiseful knowledge and activity.

With this conception of the past and present scope of the parable, turn to its more particular consideration.

SATAN IS A STRONG MAN ARMED KEEPING HIS PALACE.

Satan is enthroned. He is in the possession of a palace, and that palace is the world. Once he had no place here, not a foot of ground to call his own, but by craft and deceit, and through man's sin, he found an entrance into the citadel and has reigned there ever since. To Adam, God entrusted the key of the kingdom, pure, and perfect, and happy, which He had founded. But Adam proved faithless to His trust, and delivered it up to the enemy of God and man. Now he sits enthroned on earth as in his palace, but inasmuch as he owed his entrance to craft and deceit he is a usurper, and must in God's good time be cast forth, bound hand and foot, with all his emissaries and agents.

But again, inasmuch as he got entrance through man's sin, there is an element of justice in the scourge of his present possession, in the misrule and violence which characterize his kingdom. Though the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, through man's sin, it has, for six milleniums, been Satan's palace. In punishment for man's sin, power is given him over all kindred and tongues and nations, till the Sabbath millenium's dawn, when he shall be bound and cast into the bottomless pit.

To this agree his offer to Jesus as they stood on the mountain and all the kingdoms of the world lay at their feet, "All this power will I give thee and the glory of them, for that is delivered unto me and to whomsoever I will give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me