

# OUR WORK.

NOTES FOR  
BIBLE STUDY, BIBLE READINGS, ETC.

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## SPRING.

BY REV. W. H. PORTER.

Spring comes! I hear her music  
Low murmuring from the hills,  
And gushing down the valleys,  
In myriad-blended rills.  
Her light steps touch the mountains,  
And roam amid the vales;  
Her breath unseals the fountains,  
And soothes the boisterous gales:  
Her glance beams thro' the curtains  
Of many a reptil's nest;  
And lures to life the sleepers,  
Like morn on mortals' rest.  
Her soft hand weaves the network  
With matchless taste and skill,  
Which, for earth's emerald mantle,  
The Summer weft shall fill.  
Her fingers wander over  
The great harp's trembling strings,  
Till Nature's full orchestra  
In tuneful cadence sings.  
And is it thus from sterile,  
Frost-fettered, wintry earth,  
Such charming sounds and scenery  
At Spring's approach take birth?  
O, what shall be the transports,  
When ransomed hosts shall sing,  
Earth's stormy winter over,  
Hail Heaven's eternal Spring.

Written for Our Work.

### Job the Patriarch.

#### Calmness Amidst Calamity.

BY GEO. W. ARMSTRONG, LONDON.

#### ARTICLE NO. V.—CONCLUSION.

The study of the life of Job suggests that the good man is protected on every side, and so long as he keeps within the hedge which God throws around him he is safe. Satan may try to break through it, but it will be in vain. God's protection is proof against Satan's darts. If thoughts of God fill the heart the Christian has

little to fear from assault from without. Our Rock of defense is impregnable, and foes without will prove impotent to harm. What we have most to fear are "foes within," and if we yield to evil inclinations and desires, which, as our Saviour teaches, "are from within, out of the heart," then we weaken our defence, or break through the hedge ourselves, and make way for Satan to enter. The heart we know may be affected by outward influences, but it is the heart that impels the hand. The heart conceives the evil thought, the lips only fossilize it into words.

We are very prone to attribute effects to their wrong causes. If a Christian does an unchristian act he generally blames Satan or some other eternal cause, whereas, if he would only honestly trace that wrong to its right source, in nine cases out of ten he would find that neither Satan, nor any other eternal influence had had anything whatever to do in the matter, but that the real cause from whence such wrong originated was his own heart.

The life of Job further teaches how little in point of fact Satan actually knows about the state of human hearts.

How greatly he erred in his estimate of Job. His idea was that Job served God from *selfish motives*, because God had blessed him with temporal good. "Doth Job fear God for nought?" was his enquiry, but too impatient to wait a reply he gave his own answer, "Put forth thine hand now and touch all that he hath and he will curse thee to thy face." That was Satan's idea, but how superficial it proved. He had wrongfully calculated his man. How chagrined Satan must have felt when God having placed him (Job) and all he possessed into his power, and after Satan had done his worst and stripped Job of all he had as well as of all his domestic comforts and happiness to hear the glorious old patriarch exclaim, "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." There's something truly majestic in such

moral heroism. Job's life had been too much devoted to blessing and praising to turn to cursing now.

Though Satan had wrongly estimated his man, God had not. Satan could not read Job's heart, but God could. What a blessing is this to us weak ones. If Satan only knew how weak some of us are it might lead him to trouble us, but when hearts are placed in God's keeping he keeps them in safe shelter. "He keepeth them in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on him." And if we are ever exposed to Satan's or any other outward temptation, it must be by our own doing, or by God's permission; and of this we may rest fully satisfied that it will never be the latter until God shall have satisfied himself that our faith is strong enough to resist. Saints are too precious in God's sight for him to permit of them being attacked by forces too strong for their resistance.

"Satan trembles when he sees

The weakest saint upon his knees."

And though he may desire to have us that he may sift us as wheat, if the Satanic sifting process be too severe, let us remember Christ has said under such circumstances, "I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not." With Christ's help what need we fear? We can resist the devil and he will flee from us, or, we can by faith and prayer, rid ourselves of his presence; but from the presence of Christ we can never flee. "Lo! I am with you always even unto the end of the world." So that wherever he may be his help can be obtained; and if we, like Job, are "perfect and upright," then nothing can harm us. In our past considerations we find words of *warning* and words of *encouragement*. *Words of warning because of Satan's vigilance. Words of encouragement because of God's protection.* We may be surrounded by strong moral influences or forces which are antagonistic to our spiritual growth, but, let us ever remember it is "not that which goeth into the man but that which cometh