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THE SCENES OF BUNYAN'S INTERPRETER'S HOUSE.

The Spirit of Truth has come and graciously leads the hearts of God's people into all truth, in the discovery of those things needful for their edification and growth in grace. This we regard as forcibly portrayed by Bunyan in what the pilgrim saw in the house of the interpreter. Dead must the heart of that man be who can gaze without rapture on the sweet fields, dense forests, rolling rivers, placid lakes, lofty mountains of his native country, and so the rapid succession of simple but powerful sketches not from nature but from grace in that chapter of the Pilgrim's Progress is fitted to impress the heart and draw it out in pure desire for divine things. Look at these pictures and learn their lessons, after many days they will abide, for they are not like the ever changing sights of a kaleidoscope, that please and die, but will rather photograph themselves on the inner man, furnishing pleasant and profitable themes of meditations. As it was with a celebrated traveller who, old and blind, was seen with a smile of delight lighting up his face when he recalled the matchless scenes he had visited and enjoyed in days of strength and vision, so a peaceful calm will invade and possess the heart cherishing the memory of hours of communion with God on the great truths of the kingdom of heaven.

Real blessings in religion are not to be found without asking for them, the allegory therefore sets forth the traveller as asking admission into the house of the Interpreter. Means are to be used, nor is it all at once that we find the fulness of the blessing. The house of God is to be attended, the word of God is to be searched, the place where prayer is wont to be made frequented. Earnest desire for the blessing calls from heaven an answer graciously, and the full cornucopia is emptied at our feet. Christian is admitted, and welcomed by the master of the house to all its privileges; "come in, he says, and I will shew thee that which will be profitable to thee." The soul is entertained in the house of the Interpreter, but not without being enlightened. Illumination is required, for the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit. The candle of the word is lighted, in the dark nothing can be seen of these marvellous pictures, and without the guidance of the Interpreter nothing could be understood of the truth that maketh wise unto salvation. Much depends on the light in which we see an object for its effect. The chariots of fire and horses of fire round about the man of God as a defence, were unseen until the eyes of the Prophet's servant were opened. In the way to the holy city there is a need of guidance, now under God there is appointed a ministry—the ministry of reconciliation. Glad tidings of great joy are published. Pretension and assumption have stepped in here and wrought sad and strange issues. Priestcraft has done a bad work in the earth. The key of knowledge has been taken away and the door of the kingdom shut