

bore public testimony to this truth likewise; and according to the different stations in a nation which Christians occupy, they also are required to lift their public testimony in its behalf. So far as the nation and its rulers were concerned, the witness-bearing of the Westminster Assembly was to a great extent given in vain: Rulers recognized not civil authority as the moral ordinance of God, and allowed not to Christ the Divinely appointed use of that ordinance for the furtherance of His designs of mercy to the nation, and through that nation to the world: the people thus ruled, in defiance of God's Divine method of government, threw off allegiance to man, who had first renounced allegiance to God—still, the lifting up of a public testimony was the Church's duty, and it was, to a certain extent performed: so in like manner, let not us in these days be deterred from witnessing for all the rights and interests of the Redeemer, because of any recorded want of success in the case of those who have gone before us. Let us be chiefly concerned about our individual and collective faithfulness to our Divine Master. His assurance is—"Be thou *faithful* unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." The future and eternal reward of the witnesses for Christ will not be in proportion to the amount of apparent success with which their exertions is crowned, but will correspond with the spirit and the motive which prompt to labour and suffering in His cause. Witness-bearing for Christ is *the* business of Christ's people—the time for the full manifestation of success in this work rests with him alone. The Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a *witness* unto all nations: and then shall the end come. Let every one of us, *first giving himself* unto the Lord, and labouring with zeal and wisdom in the situation which the Divine Householder has assigned, continue to swell the number of Christ's *witnesses* on the earth; and beware, lest, being led away with the error of the wicked, he fall from his steadfastness. Meanwhile, let us recognize, in the events that are sifting nations and churches at the present day, the gracious designs of God to say to such as have even a little strength, and have kept His word, and not denied His name—"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." For thus saith the Lord of hosts, "yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, and the Desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts."