

plague also went out from the Lord, and slew the spies who had brought up an evil report upon the land of promise. The children of Israel, upon beholding the displeasure of God, "mourned greatly," and early in the morning they were upon the top of the mountain, saying, "Lo! we be here, and will go up unto the place which the Lord hath promised; for we have sinned." Moses told them not to go, "For the Lord is not among you; — it shall not prosper. Ye are turned away from the Lord; therefore, the Lord will not be with you." And so it was; they gave battle, but God was not in their camp, and many of them were slaughtered by the hands of the Amalekites and Canaanites. They attended to the suggestions of their carnal hearts, and would not obey in the accepted time; but, repenting of their doings, they determined to meet their enemies upon the strength of commands and promises which had been annulled and forfeited. Their time, you have seen, was not God's time; therefore they were thrown into confusion, and discomfited by the enemies of the Lord and of Israel. There is a lesson here, but I must leave it with yourself to make the application, — only, I may add the following remarks of the judicious Bates: "There are two branches of folly visible in the world; men will not do when they can, and afterwards cannot when they would."

When the breeze is brisk and fair, will the captain who has long been waiting for such a propitious event permit his crew to while away their time on deck, and himself go and lounge in the cabin among his books and papers? If so, and the wind should change, so as to detain him in port for weeks to come, there would be few to pity him. But, no; master and men are on the alert, — the anchor is weighed, — the sails are unfurled, —

"————— They hearty wave
Their last adieu, and, loosening every sheet,
Resign the spreading vessel to the wind!"

But it often happens that the children of this world are wiser than their generation than the children of light.

We are the servants of God, and we must not think he will

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