

swathing kiss without being a consuming fire."* One trembles as he reads the terrible words: "The Lord hath sworn that the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation;" or those still more terrible, found almost at the close of the Old Testament canon: "Whereas I have said, 'We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places;' thus saith the Lord of hosts, 'They shall build, but I will throw down, and they shall call them the border of wickedness, and the people against whom the Lord hath indignation for ever.' These people had their time of grace, and their time of grace passed away for ever. With individuals as with nations the day of grace may pass away. One may be unjust so long that he necessarily will be unjust for ever. There is in the nature of things a tendency to permanence of character. One may so long be accustomed to do evil that it is just as possible for the Ethiopian to change his skin or the leopard his spots as for him to do good. How solemn and awful are the words: "Because I have called and ye refused, I have stretched out my hand and no man regarded; but ye have set at naught all my counsels, and would none of my reproof; I also will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh, when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind, when distress and anguish cometh upon you;

* Cook.