

The light from heaven sent to flash gladness out upon the peoples who "sit in darkness" has been committed to me *for them*. But I have been a *dark* lantern to them. Put thou the lantern right, Lord, that the light may shine out to them. "*Let people praise thee, Lord.*" Some will say, "Why bring your own work to the Lord to do? Go to work yourself, you wretch, and make your lantern shine." But the poor church in the Psalm is better taught than that. She brings herself a smoke-begrimmed lantern to Him whose alone is "all power in heaven and in earth," and puts it into His hand to be cleansed and filled. "The hindrances to the song are all in me Deal with me, Lord, use me, until the light has chased away the darkness. '*Let people praise thee, Lord.*'"

"Thou wilt the people judge.
On earth rule nations all."

This sixty-seventh Psalm is genuine prayer. It does not spend itself in petition till there is no time or strength left to think about an answer. The answer shapes itself out before the eye of faith even while she pleads. And what does she see? A Throne, and One upon it, the hem of whose garment is sweet to her lips. She sees the law going from His mouth and all nations moulded by it. The sceptre in His hand and all nations bowing to it. Is it any wonder that her voice goes up a second time in the cry,

"Let people praise thee, Lord let them
Praise thee both great and small."

It is a distinct recollection with the writer, the puzzle this verse used to be. Also that wonderful call to the whole earth and all therein for joy "before the Lord for He cometh, for He cometh to judge the earth," at the close of the ninety-sixth Psalm, repeated with even an increase of enthusiasm if that were possible at the close of the ninety-eighth. Joy before the Lord come to judgment! the very mention of it seemed a mockery. No sympathy with it was ever felt till a few years ago. A short newspaper paragraph was read in the writer's hearing. It gave an account of a menial nun in Italy who, either as penance or punishment, had been sentenced to a certain term of starvation. Whether this sentence had gone the length that might be accounted serious cruelty or not, was not stated, but shortness of bread was the penalty that was to be endured. The poor girl stole bread from the pantry, and, as a punishment for this offence, her face was held over the fire until her