

Word,  
1855.]

## THE ABIDING WORD.

1 PETER I. 24, 25.

"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the Gospel is preached unto you."

By this quotation from the prophet the apostle worthily winds up his own strain. The theme which fills his opening chapter is the immutability of the Christian economy as opposed to the fluctuation of all created things. The inheritance to which our hope is begotten is one that fadeth not away; the precious blood that bought it is not corruptible, like the ransom-price of silver and gold, but bears an eternal value; the life of which God's word is the seed is, unlike human life in the flesh, immortal; and the conversation to which it leads is not vain and transitory, but will have its issues in eternity. This is the sublime contrast that rules the strain, which, after all its impassioned changes, finds its full, appropriate, and perfect close in the cry of the ancient voice in the wilderness: *All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever.*

But more than a quotation is here. It is that kind of authoritative use which an apostle may make of a prophet's words. Inspiration is quoting inspiration, and more than