

both. Here the church of Christ commencing as a "small rivulet," "increased in depth and breadth as it flowed along, swept away in its resistless tide the impregnable strongholds of ancient error and superstition, and the accumulated corruptions of centuries, and, by spreading its genial currents on humanity, fertilized it, and produced cheering and magnificent harvests."

He then describes the condition of the world when Christ came. "As after a long and gloomy night, when creation lies prostrate in death-like sleep, the great luminary of the day rises in the east, clad in glittering gold, and travels towards the west, shedding warmth, light and life in all directions, so rose christianity in the east, amidst the deep gloom of ignorance and corruption, and gloriously careered westward, awaking slumbering nations to truth and righteousness, God and salvation. Yes, the world was enveloped in almost impenetrable darkness when Jesus was born. Grim idolatry stalked over the length and breadth of the then known world, and prejudices and corruptions of a most revolting type followed in its train. Greece, Rome and Egypt, each had its pantheon of varied and countless deities, who ruled the mind of the age with iron sway. The principles of morality had also suffered a wreck amid the surges of extravagant luxuries and sensuality; and unbridled dissipation and debauchery prevailed on all sides."

He speaks in terms of just and eloquent appreciation of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and adds,—"Judaism alone stood in solitary grandeur and prominent relief amid this scene of universal degradation, for it contained within itself the precious truths of Theism; but even that had come to be encumbered with empty rituals and ceremonies, and lay divided between the conceited and hypocritical Pharisees on the one hand, and the cold-hearted and skeptical Sadducees on the other."

He then speaks of Christ as "coming in the fulness of time," and sacrificing himself for the good of mankind:—"It cannot be denied that it was solely for his thorough devotion to the cause of truth and the interests of suffering humanity, that he patiently

endured all the privations and hardships which came in his way, and met that fierce storm of persecution which his infuriated antagonists poured on his devoted head.—It was from no selfish impulse, from no spirit of mistaken fanaticism, that he bravely and cheerfully offered himself to be crucified on the cross. He laid down his life that God might be glorified. I have always regarded the cross as a beautiful emblem of self-sacrifice unto the glory of God, one which is calculated to quicken the higher feelings and aspirations of the heart, and to purify the soul, and I believe there is not a heart, how callous and hard soever it may be, that can look with cold indifference on that grand and significant symbol."

He gives a brief sketch of the life of Christ and of the history of the Church, including the "wicked system of Popery." He describes the Reformation as a restoration of Primitive Christianity. "For this great work Providence raised up Luther, and to him the world is indebted for its emancipation from the errors and absurdities of Popery. By his spirited protests, in the midst of the assembled potentates of Europe, and in the face of furious opposition, against the galling despotism of the Romish Church, and his fearless advocacy of the primitive truths of the gospel, and the rights of private judgment, he pulled down the huge fabric of corruption that had been built up, reviving the drooping energies of Christendom, and once more establishing the glory of Christ."

Of modern missionaries and their work he says:—"They have braved all hazards, crossed oceans and deserts, surmounted insuperable difficulties, and, with patience, perseverance, and self denial, have planted the cross in many a land. Through their labours Christianity has penetrated the farthest extremities of the globe, and has made proselytes among nearly all races of men. Many a country, where barbarism and bestiality prevailed, has now become the abode of civilization, refinement, and peace; and many a nation, long immersed in the mire of idolatry and immorality, has been reformed and purified. The stream of Christianity, which first flowed westward,