

God has promised by Himself, and of which all His prophets have prophesied. It will not be so, if to Him, whose ear is ever open "to hear His faithful people which call upon him," we offer the prayers of our hearts—the prayers, as it were, of one united heart—for His favour upon the work we have in hand, that it may prosper as the fountain of blessings, which shall not fail during time, and shall continue throughout eternity, to ourselves, our children, and our children's children.

Beseeching, then, this—beseeching, too, a plenteous and perpetual rain of the Divine increase upon whatever His Ministers shall deliver to His people conformable to His word and will, we proceed to remark, in connection with our subject, that (all the glowing anticipations of Prophecy for the future imply that the past was full of misery, and wo, and darkness. Peace to come necessarily implies previous warfare;—future reconciliation, former separation and estrangement;—the looking for rest, the existence hitherto of turmoil, distress, and inquietude;—prospective fertility, failure and barrenness aforesaid;—the expectation of freedom presupposes bondage and slavery; and the promise of forgiveness includes an offence given!—and such exactly was the case, it is now before us to review! For this is its history:—a history, we will here warn you to bear in mind, not resting on the mere sand of human authority for its truth; but whose truth is the revealed Truth of the eternal and unchangeable Godhead; whilst its sanction is the whole scheme of Divine Providence from the birth of Creation down to the present hour, as it has been developed by "the workings of His mighty power,"* both general and special, in all ages, and in all the events of all ages;—alike in the times of Adam, and Noah, and the Patriarchs;—in the times of the incarnate Immanuel;—and in our own times; equally in the "putting man a living soul into the garden of Eden;"†—in the sacrifice "of the only-begotten of the Father;"‡—and in the conversion of any transgressor, blind and obstinate and "dead in trespasses and

* Ephes. i., 19 † Genesis ii., 7, 15.

‡ John i., 14.