

craft, ages of persecution for opinion's sake, ages of spiritual darkness over the land, and gross darkness over the people! What a fall was there! The instrument of salvation an engine of cruelty; the good news a terror to men; the name of Christ an incantation to curse, not to bless; the revelation of mercy a machine to crush freedom and progress among men!

But a change came. The Reformation broke the slumber of ages, and called men to life from the tomb in which they had so long lain asleep and dreaming. The old systems of error were partially broken up, and the stream began to run clear.

Then other and even deeper changes have come, and are coming. Error after error is washing away. The pure waters of life are again open to the thirsty, to drink and live. The glorious ideas of Christ, eclipsed for centuries, are coming out in their brightness to men's minds. All branches of the Church Universal have felt the movement, and it is as vain to deny it, as to deny that the sun shines at noon-day. History thus demonstrates that the Gospel is progressive in its ideas of love, truth, and right; and that "when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part will be done away."

2. The second point relates to *the sentiments of Christianity*. All that has before been said about ideas will apply here. Thought is first in the order of philosophy, then feeling. Principles make way for sentiments, and sentiments grow into motives, and motives lead on to action. But how was it possible for the meek and loving graces of Christianity to take possession of the heart of the world, when it was preoccupied with the bigotry of the Jews, and the voluptuousness of Greece, and the am-