

in the anticipation of His advent, "upon whom the Lord has laid the iniquities of us all."* When the last of the Jewish Prophets sent forth his proclamation, it was to announce "the rising of the Sun of Righteousness, with healing in his wings."† When John the Baptist revealed the fact of his arrival, his language was,—“behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.”‡ When Jesus himself unfolded the counsels of heaven, his words were emphatically these,—“I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me.”§ When his Apostles took up the wondrous theme their announcement was the same,—“there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”|| It was this great truth, my brethren! that sounded in the ears of your Fathers, when they worshipped in these courts. It was through faith in that name they found peace with God; through trust in that sacrifice their toils were lightened, and their path in the wilderness cheered with the radiance of heavenly hope; and it is through the same faith and the same sacrifice, that you must travel onward through a polluted world to a holy heaven. Nor will you cease to delight in this theme, when you reach that higher abode; for even there your song will be, “unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins, in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.”¶

From this thought, my brethren! the transition is easy to the final question we are to ask, and that by no means the least important, viz:—*What shall we be in future?* It is a question, as you will readily admit, more easy to ask than to answer, and one to which no answer can be given with certainty. Still it is highly desirable to direct our thoughts to this point, and consider what the probabilities are in regard to it.

What then are we to be in future, *in respect to temporal things?* Here, it must be admitted, all seems promising. Your commerce is extending, your wealth increasing, your population augmenting. Your City, untouched by the calamities that have lately visited others, is rapidly rising in importance; your Province, remote from the wars that are desolating other lands, is becoming the centre of improvements, which seem destined to elevate it far beyond its present position. In short, the present year opens upon you, as far as

* Isaiah liii. 6.

† Malachi iv. 2.

‡ John i. 29.

§ John xiv. 6.

|| Acts iv. 12.

¶ Rev. i. 5-6.