

If you ask, where the great battle was fought with man's deadly foe? I answer, in Joseph's new tomb, hewn out of a rock. Thither the Son of God pursued him, that he might give him all possible advantage in the contest. But the monster fell powerless at the feet of the Almighty Saviour,—the sceptre was wrested from his hand, and the omnipotent conqueror arose, dragging him at his own chariot wheels, and proclaiming with a loud voice, that was heard reverberating through the dark caverns of the dead, "I am the resurrection and the life: He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

But you ask, could death be destroyed in no other way? This was the way which Infinite Wisdom devised, and Boundless Love and Omnipotent Energy executed. Man, by disobedience, had subjected himself to death, and justice required that he should be consigned over eternally to its dominion, unless an ample atonement could be made in the person of a substitute. The claims of the Divine administration could not be disannulled. They must be met. The death of the Incarnate Son of God was the marvellous expedient which the Councils of Heaven decreed should answer these demands in the sinner's behalf. The mysterious event has taken place; God is reconciled, and a foundation laid for the complete triumph of all believers, against which "the gates of hell shall not prevail."

But what a period of awful suspense was that when Jesus was in the sepulchre! Hell was in triumph, the Disciples in despair, and angels waiting, in terrible anxiety, *the issue!* If the Royal Prisoner remained in that position, all hope for man was gone; the purposes of mercy frustrated; Heaven shrouded in mourning, and the authority of the Supreme trampled in the dust. But, behold the earthquakes, an angel is despatched from the eternal throne, to roll away the stone. Jesus rises from the sepulchre: Angels are in waiting to announce to his disciples, "He is not here, he is risen, come see the place where the Lord lay." While other celestial messengers bear the joyful tidings through all the regions of glory, now is brought to pass the saying that is written, "*Death is swallowed up in victory.*"

The resurrection of Christ must be regarded as a certain pledge of ultimate and eternal conquest.

The promise in my text will not be fully realized until the great harvest of the last day shall be gathered.

The resurrection of the body is purely a dogma of revelation. Heathen philosophy had no conception of this truth. It inculcated,