

more earnestly the weapons of our warfare with prayer, faith, and zeal.

(d) But chiefly do we find our encouragement in this, that the purpose of God standeth sure. The world around us is a sea of change. These mountains which seem to us an image of God's eternity are exposed to the operations of laws, which will carry them down to the lowest depths of the ocean. The stars of heaven, emblems of enduring light, are yet the subjects of continual change, ceaseless in their motion, varying in their lustre, now shining with unwonted brilliancy, now altogether disappearing from our view. And what shall we say of man? Mutability and movement mark every page of his history. Nations and empires flourish to-day, and to-morrow are swept away like the chaff of the summer threshing-floor. This is not so with the people of the covenant. They still abide, and the promise of their redemptions abide too. The gifts and calling of God to the Jewish nation are unreversed and irreversible. He has reserved, indeed, in His own power the times and the seasons, when the Kingdom shall be restored to them; but the event rests upon His unchanging Word, its foundation is the Rock of Ages, and the promise a beaven-light, shining high above the storms and tempests of this lower world.

What, then, though man forget the promise! What though generation after generation pass away, and