

chosen, the mountain of his holiness; the joy of the whole earth. It predicts the security of the Church, inasmuch as God is well known in her palaces as a sure refuge, and has promised to establish her forever. Hence whatever enemies may combine against her, or whatever dangers befall her, her faithful sons need never tremble, for the gates of hell shall never prevail against her. It is their privilege to "walk about Zion, and tell the towers thereof, to mark her bulwarks, and consider her palaces," to say of Him who reigns therein, "this God is our God, for ever and ever," and while they rejoice in the security which his presence affords, to dwell upon and celebrate the innumerable proofs of his loving-kindness.

And to what point of the universe can we turn without tracing the evidences of this? Shall we raise our eyes to the azure vault of Heaven, where the sun rolls onward in his brightness, where the moon walks in her beauty, and the stars reflect upon unnumbered worlds their distant radiance? Shall we turn in silent contemplation to the world we inhabit, and trace its varied arrangements in the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms? Shall we pause over the wonderful mechanism of our own material frames, or the still more astonishing powers of the human mind? At every step we shall be compelled to mark the beneficence of God, and to exclaim with one who was taught by His own unerring Spirit, "The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord."

Yet these are but a part of His ways. Turn we to the dealings of God, as they are displayed in the arrangements of Providence—even those arrangements by which its ordinary blessings are dispensed to us, and what a field for admiration and praise here opens before us! Whence is it we derive the most common comforts of life? our health, our support, our friends, in a word, every blessing connected with the present world? Are not all to be traced up to the "loving-kindness" of that beneficent Being "from whom cometh every good and perfect gift?" Shall we doubt this