

the earth," what of the free thought giants of our own day,—men who trifle with truth, and set order and vows at defiance,—who feed famishing souls with husks,—who daub the wall with untempered mortar,—what of these men? The history of the past is the history of the future. To-day, spread like the green bay tree, to-morrow forgotten; and men, whom God can trust, will guide the affairs of His house, and work out the final triumphs of the great Redemption.

That the Church of Christ is in a satisfactory condition,—that it is adorned with the beauty of holiness,—that it is what its Master designed it to be, "a light shining in a dark place,"—that it commands the respect of the world,—that it is achieving results commensurate with its origin, nature and means, or with the outward visible activity of the day, in relation to the present and future of our world, the candid enquirer will be slow to affirm. Where then lies the evil? Just where, under God, lies the remedy,—in the pulpit,—so largely accountable for existing church thought, and modes of activity, in neglect of, or attempts to supplement divinely appointed means of accomplishing revealed ends; and now, when the ecclesiastical heaven is gathering blackness, and the storm, in no indistinct murmurs, is heard, threatening to overthrow or supplant old established order, instead of boldly breasting the storm, there are strong symptoms of timid yielding to its power,—a swimming with the tide,—as if stability and success lay in unfaithfulness to solemn trust, instead of in God's realized presence. That scriptural success can result from human methods, or the combination of these with the revealed, no true student of the Bible and Providence can for one moment dream; and largely, to one or other of these elements of thought, is the state of the church to be traced.

The interests entrusted to us are God's,—resting on the Rock of Ages,—honoured with the latter-day dispensation of the Spirit,—the conservation of those interests is one of the noblest works in which man can be engaged; and when, against rationalistic reform,—ritualistic puerilities,—infidel taunts,—the antagonistic world spirit, and worst of all, internal treachery or unfaithfulness, the church shall rise to her old, time-honoured position, when the rush lights of human wisdom shall have gone out in deep darkness, and the giant thought of to-day dwindled down to its true pigmy proportions, then "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners," will stand forth the grand old institution, characterized by the beauty of holiness, "a Royal Priesthood."