

persecutions they might be subjected to, Heb. x. 37, 38—
“For yet a little while, and he that shall come, will come,
and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; but
if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in
him.” The people of God, in the time of the apostle, were
in a position very analogous to that of God’s people in the
time of the prophet: both were threatened with imminent
outward dangers; to both, the same ground of strength
and consolation is held forth,—the certainty of the divine
promises; and on both, the same duty is enjoined,—faith
in God. The passage before us is likewise quoted by the
apostle Paul in two other well-known places: Rom. i. 17,
“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith
to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith;”
and Gal. iii. 11, “But that no man is justified by the law
in the sight of God, it is evident; for the just shall live by
faith.” It would be confounding every rule of interpreta-
tion, were we to imagine that the words in Habakkuk have
any direct intended reference to what the apostle is treating
of in both these places,—the doctrine of justification by
faith. They have not. Yet the quotations are appropriately
made; inasmuch as the method in which sinners obtain justi-
fication before God, is substantially, and, as far as the prin-
ciple of the thing is concerned, identical with that in which
they are enabled to enjoy peace and safety amidst sur-
rounding earthly troubles. In both cases, the result is
secured by faith in God: faith which in each instance lays
hold upon the divine promises having respect to the parti-
cular case. Faith apprehends, in the former instance, the
promise of salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ; and
in the latter, the various declarations of Scripture relating
to the troubles which the people of God are called to en-
dure,—as, for example, “Because thou hast made the Lord
which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation,
there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague