

less bondage, or swept them from their path as mere trifles, when they interfered with their purpose. Upon all such men, and upon all such communities, retribution must fall. Hence the prophet says, "I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man, than the golden wedge of Ophir."

This prophecy pointed to an age in which the immense capabilities of man should be recognized, and human life estimated at its proper value. How near we are to that time we cannot say, but immense strides in that direction have been made since these words were uttered. In our own and other lands, in which a Christianized civilization has done its work, the security of all ranks of the people is more carefully provided for than it ever was before. The rights of the lowest, as well as the highest are sacredly guarded by laws which know no respect of persons. The class distinctions by which the many were improperly humiliated and the few unduly exalted, are rapidly disappearing. Appliances for the sustenance and preservation of human life were never so numerous as they are to day. The discoveries of science and the productions of art unite to increase and elevate our pleasures, multiply our resources, and develop our powers, so that within the limits of our three score years and ten, may be found more of enjoyment, enterprise and attainment, than Methuselah could reach during a life-time of nearly a thousand years. If time is to be measured by achievements, rather than by the swing of the pendulum, we live longer than the patriarchs, and life is more to us than it could be to them. There is more to live for, more to engage our attention and affections, and to employ our faculties upon, than there ever was before. Life binds us with stronger bonds, and as the value and attractiveness of the things around us increase, we find it more difficult to leave