

when God visited your family with a heavy stroke, they were thoughtful for a season, but there was no church in your house to give a heavenly direction to that thoughtfulness, and it soon died away. That evening, when they came home from the Sabbath-school, so serious, if you had been a pious father or mother, you would have taken your boy aside, and spoken tenderly to him, and asked what his teacher had been telling him, and you would have prayed with him and tried to deepen the impression. But your children came in from the church or school and found no church in their father's house. Their hearts were softened, but your worldliness soon hardened them. The seed of the kingdom was just springing in their souls, and by this time might have been a rich harvest of salvation; but in the atmosphere of your ungodly house the tender blade withered instantly. Your idle talk, your frivolity, your Sunday visitors, your prayerless evenings ruined all.

Your children were coming to Christ, and you suffered them not. And you will not need to hinder them long. The carnal mind is enmity against God; but no enmity so deep as theirs who were almost reconciled and then drew back. You drove your children back. You hardened them. They may never more be moved. They may grow up as prayerless and ungodly as yourself. If God should change yourself, they may soon be too hard for your own tears and entreaties. If you die as you are, their evil works will follow you to the world of woe, and pour new ingredients into your own cup of wrath. Oh! think of these things. A prayerless house is not only a cheerless one, but it is a guilty one; for where God is not, there Satan is.

### THUNDER-STORM ON THE MEDITERRANEAN.

"The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thundereth: the Lord is upon many waters."—Psa. xxix. 3.

Dr. James Hamilton, in his lecture on the Literary Attractions of the Bible, has the following beautiful remarks on the geographical structure of this Psalm:—

There is no phenomenon in nature so awful as a thunder-storm; and almost

every poet, from Homer and Virgil down to Dante and Milton, or rather down to Grahame and Pollok, has described it. In the Bible, too, we have a thunder-storm—the 29th Psalm—the description of a tempest, which, rising from the Mediterranean, and travelling by Lebanon, and along the inland mountains, reaches Jerusalem, and sends the people into the temple porticoes for refuge. And besides those touches of terror in which the geographical progress of the tornado is described, it derives a sacred vitality and power from the presence of Jehovah in each successive peal.

'The voice of the Lord is on the sea:  
The God of glory thundereth: the Lord is  
on the mighty sea.

The voice of the Lord is powerful, the  
voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedars;  
Yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Lebanon.

He maketh them also to skip like a calf:  
Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn.  
The voice of the Lord divideth the flames  
of fire.

The voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness:  
The Lord shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds  
to calve, and discovereth the forests;  
And in His temple doth every one speak  
of His glory.

The Lord sitteth upon the water-torrent;  
yea, the Lord sitteth King forever.  
'The Lord will give strength unto His people;

(and now the sun shines out again);  
'The Lord will bless His people with peace.'

"Over many of the Psalms it sheds a flood of new significance when the reader understands their mechanism, as in the case of many it has been disclosed by the labours of Lowth, Horsley, Hengstenberg, and others. It was one happy morning, in his house at Duudee, that my dear friend, Robert McCheyne, showed me the geographical structure of this 29th Psalm. And certainly it enhances the meaning of this majestic ode when we conceive spectator-psalmist as standing with the awe-struck multitude in the temple porch, and watching the march of the thunder-storm as it advances from the Mediterranean or 'mighty' sea, and at last bursts into a water-flood around themselves."