



KING DAVID'S FOOL.

On one occasion the Rev. W. Taylor, when preaching in the streets of San Francisco, took for his text the words, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." He says, "Some of my remarks on that occasion ran as follows:—

"Here is a watch my father gave me when I was a boy," holding it in my hand. "He bought it from an old bachelor by the name of Walkup, who, of course, recommended it to be a first-rate watch. I am not acquainted with its early history, but if I were to tell you that this watch had no maker, that some happy chance formed the different parts of its ingenious machinery, and that another chance put them together with the very useful design of a time-piece, you would call me a fool.

"It is said that Sir Isaac Newton had a friend who professed to be an atheist. Sir Isaac, anticipating a visit from his friend, placed a beautiful new globe where he knew it would arrest the attention of his visitor. When the atheist saw it, he exclaimed with admiration, 'Sir Isaac, who made this beautiful globe?'

"'Oh, it was not made at all, sir!' answered the great philosopher, with a significant glance at the confused eye of his friend.

"The argument was unanswerable. And if we cannot believe that a mere globe of wood, with certain lines and colours and figures, representing the earth's surface, could come by chance, how can we imagine that this mighty globe itself, with its continents and seas, and various laws, to say nothing of the vast universe of suns and systems which occupy the immeasurable expanse of space, could be the result of chance?

"To adopt such a conclusion, there is surely no such fool in this intelligent audience. But remember, David's fool was not such. He probably, like some fools encountered by Jesus in the days of His incarnation, 'drew nigh to God with his lips, and honoured Him with his mouth,' but 'said in his heart, There is no God.' The Holy Spirit was looking at him, and heard his heart say it, and moved the royal Psalmist to pen it down, and so it stands recorded to-day.

"The Holy Spirit is looking at each one of you now, and listening to every pulsation of your moral heart, and were He now to reveal what has there passed this day, what shocking revelations He would make! It is not by the profession of the mouth, but by the conduct of men, that we are to learn the orthodoxy of their hearts.

"A miserable gambler said to me but a short time since, 'When I came to California I had but twenty-five cents; but I had good luck playing cards, and by-and-by set up a "monte-table," and, I thank God, I have been very successful.' He said he was a member of the Roman Catholic Church, and professed to be very devout.

"A wretched rum-seller over here on Jackson-street had filched the pockets of a poor fellow, wrecked his constitution, blighted all his hopes for time and eternity, unstrung his nervous system, and driven him into delirium tremens; and when his poor victim was dying, the tender-hearted rum-seller, full of sympathy for the suffering, sent in haste for me to come and pray for the poor man.

"Why, these gamblers here, whenever they shoot a fellow, go right off for a preacher to pray over their dead. One who came for me to preach at the funeral of C. B., who had been shot the night before just there in that large saloon, said, 'We thought it would be a pity to bury the man without some religious ceremonies. It will be a comfort to his friends, too, to know that he had a decent Christian burial.'

"I have buried three such within as many months. They profess a belief in God, but their conduct gives the lie to their profession.

"What is the swearer's notion of God? Even to-day my ears have been saluted with the horrid oath. They do not believe in their hearts that there is a God, and but use His name in ironical contempt, or else they have so degraded a notion of God as to treat Him worse than they would treat a dog. They would not think of so treating a fellow-man. 'The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God,' but every pulsation of that heart gives the lie to the blasphemous assertion. This system of bones, and sinews, and muscles, and arteries, and veins, and nerves, so fearfully and wonderfully made, proclaims, 'There is a God.' And this still more mysterious soul, which occupies this highly-wrought tenement, proclaims yet more loudly, 'There is a God.'

"See Him in nature. See Him in His providential government over men. See Him as revealed in His Word. See His mercy—His justice. We belong to Him. To Him shall we answer for all the sayings of our hearts. Do you believe in Him? Do you obey Him? Do you love Him? Are you on friendly terms with Him to-day? If not, 'We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.' Will you sue for pardon and reconciliation now?"