

stone of the building. Thus the design was admirable, though difficult to accomplish, for it comprised two apparently contrary things to be reconciled—the requirements of the broken law, and the salvation of the sinner. Well, let us see how these were accomplished.

2ndly. The accomplishment begins from the time of man becoming an inhabitant of this earth, or, more correctly, from the date of his fall. Then the old temple became desolate, and degenerated into a synagogue of Satan. The Divine Spirit forsook His building, and court and sanctuary were robbed of their glory; the altar and hearth were desolate, and “Ichabod,” “Ichabod,” might be inscribed on the walls, for the glory had departed. But even then He whose name is The Branch had commenced His work. A stone from this quarry He took, and another from that; one He rent and hewed, another He separated and renewed; and both He fitted for His sanctuary. What labour and skill did this involve! What a diversity of material had He to operate upon! And what work in fashioning and adapting it to His service! Not a stone was naturally fit for His object! Not a soul disposed to His service! On the contrary, the mass was corrupt, and out of that mass He chose His own. The stone which, for beauty and elegance, man would have chosen, He rejected; the one which, for unsightliness and meanness, man would have cast away, He chose. Every stone had to be hewn and prepared as ever a quarry one for a Church,—the difference being that the natural one yields to the hammer, but the spiritual resists to the utmost. But by His grace Emmanuel made it submissive. Through affliction, He brought down the haughty, and by his love softened and subdued the perverse. Manasseh, Naaman, and other unlikely stones, He renewed, and added to His temple. Not an age of the Church in which He did not rear some living stones for His sanctuary. At the building of the temple of Solomon He presided, but it was chiefly with a view of prosecuting His own work in the heart. That temple fell, but His temple continued, even during the captivity. By Babel’s streams the exiles wept, nevertheless the hearts of many were turned to higher concerns, and Daniel and other devout Jews constituted His Church. At length arose the second and more glorious temple.—and why more glorious but because He was to shew Himself there, and to speak peace? In the fulness of time He did so, and the blind and lame and leprous came to Him in the temple and were healed. Over their souls did He shed the light of His truth, and in their hearts the fire of His love, and they glorified Him. How many living stones were added to this temple during His ministry on earth! But when the veil of the Jewish temple was rent, and the way opened up for Gentile and Jew to approach, then did His temple receive enlargement. Three thousand were added in one day. Through a great part of the world has He erected His edifice. Scythians, Chinese, Patagonians, as well as civilized at home, have become His sanctuary. Incense and a pure offering now ascend where Juggernaut and Llama were once worshipped, and the altar burns with love to God where once devastation or the devil ruled. The voice of praise is heard where only blasphemy was wont, and the Christian Church rears its head where temples to unknown gods so long prevailed. Thus it is plain that Christ’s temple is set up and has spread through a large portion of the world, and multitudes own its connexion. What more shall I say? There is not a new Church opened for Divine service but Messiah The Branch is there to build up souls into His own temple. And He delights at the occasion, for the very reason that thereby an opportunity will be afforded for His Gospel to be preached, and souls gained to His Church. Accordingly, He is present at our ministrations to bless His Word. The instrument may be but a feeble one; but if serving Him, He will not disown but honour his labours. The message proclaimed may be nothing more than the good old news of God’s love to our world, or the story of the Cross, but it He will make the loadstone to attract,