

the other foolishness, without Jesus Christ? O my friend you may be well read, or you may be ignorant. You may be what the world calls rich, or you may be poor. The whole effort of your life may be to keep what you have got, or, having nothing, you may be busy striving after what you lack. But, possess yourself of the mystery of God's grace as set forth in Christ Jesus, and your wisdom is exalted above this world; your riches stand for ever. For then, you hold the pearl of great price among things that are new and things that are old. You then embrace the one worthy object for which to live, for which to die—Christ Jesus.

When God set forth His Son Jesus Christ, it was not in the privacy of obscurity, silence and solitude. No truth is more plain, than that His advent was a fact, yea, even to the intelligent universe. When the birth of the Saviour was announced on the plains of Bethlehem, to the shepherds, "the glory of the Lord shone round about them." The voice of the angel in the gentle accents of Heaven proclaimed "the good tidings of great joy" in the night time. But, when open day came, the good news spread from mouth to mouth and were proclaimed from the house top, and the hill top, and from the top of all that is high among men. The news is spreading still, nor shall it cease to spread, till it swell into the thundered acclamations of all people, "from the gates of the west to the sun," and from the icy pole to the burning line:—"The Lord hath visited and hath redeemed His people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David: as He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets which have been since the world began" (Luke i, 68-70).

If angels followed with wonder, the weary steps of the "man of sorrows," so did devils. If Gabriel heralded His coming, Satan was permitted to stand behind his back to whisper temptation. If angels ministered unto Him in Gethsemane, evil men held converse with Him before and around His cross. Yes! When He yielded up the ghost, and cried "it is finished," as women wept, and men trembled; as the sun fainted, and the earth quaked; as pure spirits whispered in wonder, as foul spirits groaned in despair; the boundless dominions of Jehovah heaved with the echoed words of the awe-stricken centurion, who saw Him die: "Truly, this was the Son of God."

It is thus no secret in earth, in heaven, or hell, that God hath set forth His Son. But what is the setting forth thus publicly made to you and me, if we lay not hold upon it, and take it to