

pointed, and our fondest hopes put to shame. Let us never therefore withhold from God what is His due: it is sacrilege to do so: and what we rob God of, will be sure to turn to emptiness and bitterness when our hearts may be most fondly set upon it. God is the Lord of sea and land; He controls the wild billows and rides upon the storm, and He breathes and smiles on the fields that wave with golden grain. Blessing all, He expects the grateful homage of all. And when we forget our dependence and offer incense to our own industry and enterprise—to soil or climate—to sun or wave,—the Lord who is a jealous God, asserts his authority and sends blight and storm and frost, and famine, to teach the salutary lesson, that in Him we live and move, and have our being. Let us learn the lesson speedily, that it may not require to be repeated with still greater severity.

We have heard the cry of hunger; and relief has been sent. This is well. But there is along our shores and in many inland districts, a sore and terrible famine of the Word of Life. If we haste to the rescue when the want is temporal, relating merely to the body, how much more should we exert ourselves when eternal interests are at stake! Unspeakably awful is it to perish for ever, when the Bread of Life is so free; and when the invitations to partake of it and to dispense it are so pressing. It were the most atrocious cruelty to hear of starvation at our doors, and not to afford instant relief. Is it less cruel to sit down in the quiet enjoyment of Gospel privileges, while thousands of our own countrymen and kindred are perishing in their sins?

The same Almighty Ruler is over us in temporal as well as spiritual affairs; and the same great principles control His administration in all its departments. Things temporal He uses as signs and symbols to teach us things spiritual. The Kingdom of nature is as it were, a parable pointing to the Kingdom of grace. Let us as teachable disciples wisely watch the hand of our MASTER in summer sunshine, and winter storm; in shrivelling blights and in harvest's full fruition; in famine, and pestilence, and war, and commercial disasters;

as well as in peace, and plenty, and health, and prosperous fortune. Let us prize the summer of His smile, and dread the wintry frown of his wrath. Let us seek to bring forth fruit in His Kingdom; and as we enjoy its high privileges let us not forget the souls that are ready to perish in the grasp of eternal death!

COMING CHANGES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The Presbyterians of England and Scotland are earnestly discussing the question of Union. The prospect sometimes looks gloomy; and sometimes it is very hopeful and bright. We cannot doubt but God will in His own good time and way bring His people into union and communion with each other even as they are all united with Himself. It may be that the Presbyterians of England will all form one Church, and the Presbyterians of Scotland another, and the Irish Presbyterians a third,—the three to join in a "solemn League and Covenant," thus realizing the glorious ideal of the men of 1638-'48. It may be that at least all the English-speaking Presbyterian Churches will come together in close bonds of fraternal love, and be able to hold General Councils for purposes of general help and guidance. It seems to us that the "signs of the times" point in this direction. The Union question having been, in principle, settled in all the British Colonies, is now commanding the attention of the free Churches in the United States and Scotland.

An agitation, which bids fair to assume formidable proportions, has commenced within the Scottish Establishment against the old grievance of Patronage. This agitation will probably lead to another disruption; and it does not seem likely that the Scottish can long survive the Irish Establishment. That there is a connection between the two appears from the strenuous efforts put forth by the Courts of the Scottish Church to influence Parliament against Mr. Gladstone's measures. The logic that shatters the foundation of the Irish Church, will, at least, shake the walls