

theology—even what he learned of heathen poets and philosophers—who knows not how God sent them all to fit him better for his conflict with the prejudices of Jews and Greeks? And who can fail to trace also how the early vehemence of the bigoted upholder of Judaism was moulded by God Himself, as well through the great catastrophe of his life that befell him on the journey to Damascus, as through after years of struggle and suffering, into that overpowering zeal of ardent Christian faith to which, speaking humanly, we owe, more than to any other cause, the conversion of Europe and the ultimate downfall of Paganism? Doubtless, if we knew the secret history of God's great servants of every age, we should see their heavenly Father using every event and circumstance of their lives to fit them for the great work to which He destined them. Man proposes, but God disposes. And God in Christ, caring for His Church with all a Father's yearning love, watches and guides each circumstance of our being, and moulds the hearts of those who yield themselves to be led by Him, that they may be fitted to do His work.

And now, my brother, going forth to do God's work in a distant land, under very peculiar difficulties, think, for thy encouragement, of God's dealings with thee in past times. The lessons even of boyhood and early youth—nay, of thy earliest childhood—they will not be lost