

immutability in itself: as eternal truth it also lives down the rival records of man's wisdom or folly. No attribute of that word is more constantly insisted on than its *truth*, as opposed to the vanity and delusion of all merely human thoughts. *God is not a man that He should lie*, is both a testimony to God's truth and an impeachment of man's falsehood from which there is no appeal: the Scripture itself gives us our only response, *Let God be true and every man a liar*. Wherever the strength or the weakness of man's intellect has rivalled the word of God, like the flower of grass it has been doomed to perish: the truth alone abideth for ever.

Man's rivalry of Divine revelation is twofold: he either teaches a word which is opposed to Scripture, or he perverts the Scripture itself. The *lie* is either outside the sphere of revelation or within it. But, in either case, passing away is the doom written upon all that is not God's word.

(1.) That word has always had its rivals. As the Bible has gone on from age to age accumulating its treasures and enlarging the range of its influence, the inventions of the "father of the lie," using the best flower of man's intellect, have run on their parallel course. But not with equal pace: always with fainting and failing steps. The sacred books of ancient heathenism, the philosophical systems of classical antiquity, and the infidel speculations which in modern times assume without deserving it the name of philosophy,—all have contributed, or are contributing, or will contribute their illustration of our text. How vast the multitudes of the world's religious writings that have become mere curiosities of literature, not now moulding a single human intellect, or moving a single human will, or shaping a single human life. Where are the mythologies of Greece and Rome? where the Scandinavian superstitions? These, and many others, the spectres of which still haunt the deserts of the world, have been swept from the face of the earth by the besom of truth. Or, rather, they