

you but there is none warm." This likely indicates that such was their poverty through failing crops and high prices, they could afford but scant clothing—not enough to keep them warm.

4. Money was of little profit to them. "He that earneth wages, earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes." Their needs were so many, and prices so high that wages went out as fast as they came in and they scarcely knew what became of the money, or what they secured with it. It was like putting silver pieces into a bag with holes out of which the money slipped as fast as it was put in.

5. Heaven and earth denied their Blessings. "The heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit." There was "a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle and upon all the labor of the hands." Such was the state of affairs. God's house waste and no interest in it; the people waste too; the harvests yielding small returns; food and clothing scant; money slipping away, they knew not how, or what good it did; the blessings of heaven—dew and rain—stayed; and earth refusing her fruitfulness.

This was a sad condition surely!

Let us now proceed to consider:

III. The Relation or Connection between the State of God's Cause and the Condition of the People.

Was there any connection? Did the one have anything to do with the other? Some would no doubt answer in the negative. They would say that the experiences of the people had nothing to do with the house that was "waste" in Jerusalem. They would say that these droughts and failures of crops were due to atmospheric changes, to climatic conditions, or to some freak of nature which changed the character of the seasons. They would no doubt hold that the next season might turn out all right—that rain and dew and sunshine coming in due proportion could bring good crops and prosperity. So