

ness was the time when He put forth His greatest strength. The triumph of the wicked was short. In the second night He rose a living man out of His grave. His enemies, like Dagon's priests, woke upon the second morning, and heard, to their dismay, that Dagon was fallen on his face, that death was overcome, that the power of death was for ever broken, that the head and hands of death were lying helpless on the floor of the world, his temple, and that death itself was paying homage to Christ as Prince of life. The same kind of thing which happened in Dagon's temple when Dagon fell before the ark, happened in a new and wider sphere in the night of resurrection, when death was conquered by Christ, and owned that it was conquered.

The spread of the Church in the first ages is another and most notable example of the same truth.

If the ark, with its mercy seat, and its two tables of the law, and the rod of Aaron, and the pot of manna, was a type of Christ, it was also a type of that Holy Church which is the body of Christ. And how did that Church subdue the European world? It subdued the world by a secret strength which worked through seeming weakness. The ark, imprisoned within Dagon's temple, seemed not more weak and helpless than that little band of poor Jews in the upper room at Jerusalem, whose Master had but just before been crucified. The Romans looked down upon the Jews as a miserable people, and the followers of Jesus were despised among these miserable Jews. But what happened? This little band not only leavened the Roman empire, but its influence reached beyond those wide limits, wherever commerce travelled or knowledge spread. The world was then one great temple of idols. Priests and ceremonies of religion supporting systems of falsehood, filled the minds of millions with delusions. But the ark, the Church of God, worked its way among them, touched and changed hearts, entered heathen temples, converted the heathen priests, refuted the errors on which idolatry was based, taught a pure morality which showed by contrast the baseness of corrupt religions, exhibited a life of love which earth before had never witnessed. One by one, in consequence of this, the Dagon's fell. The disciples of Christ were imprisoned, banished, burnt at the stake, thrown to wild beasts. Enticement was employed as well as cruelty, and did more than cruelty; but still, one after another, every Dagon fell. And at last, in the course of some few centuries, the idols were utterly abolished within the limits of the Roman empire, and the ark of God triumphed over the chief among the four continents. Everywhere it seemed weak, but everywhere it conquered, not by carnal weapons, nor by earthly wisdom, nor by the hand of power, but by the arm and spirit of God working inwardly below the surface of things, in hearts, and minds, and consciences, and working outwardly by changing laws, and habits, and policies, the Church of God fought with the Dagon's of idolatry and won the European world for Christ.

And a like work remains for it to do still in Asia and in Africa. Systems as deep-rooted as any which have yet been overthrown, millions of heathen people more numerous than those which have