

yield obedience to the injunction, "Be ye holy, even as I am holy." "Beloved," says John, "now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." But even in this darkened valley some likeness may be reached, because even here we are enabled to behold as in a glass the glory of the Lord. Have you, my friends, seen that glory reflected in the Redeemer's work, and in every word of that testimony which God has given respecting the nature, the means, and the unspeakable importance of salvation? Have you seen such glory in the marvellous union of highest power with deepest humility; of lofty sovereignty, as the Eternal King, with submission, as an oppressed and afflicted sufferer; of almighty energy, as the Lord of life, with the feebleness that languished and died upon the cross? If these views have been revealed to you, what, let me ask, have been the practical results? How far has your sanctification been advancing? You have enjoyed opportunities of manifesting that love which in Him appeared in such attractive beauty: has your love, like His, been ardent and enduring, and self-denying, and comprehensive in its range? You have had trials summoning to endurance, (how immeasurably inferior to those which He endured!)—have you, like Him, been patient and unrepining? You have been assailed by temptations, and that spirit by whose stratagems Jesus was beset, has endeavored to get an advantage of you;—are you able to say, in the strength of the Lord, "Get thee behind me, Satan?" Or, if worldly attractions are placed in abundance around you, and from the circumstances of your condition, your position, success, and natural inclination you feel disposed to yield your heart to such idolatry, are you able to repress every such disposition by the remembrance of the truth, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve?" Have, you, in short, reason to believe, that you have at least begun to make progress in the attainment of a resemblance to the Lord,—in being animated by the Spirit of the meek and lowly Jesus, and directed by His wisdom,—having reached, in some degree, to His holiness, submission, unshrinking firmness, devotedness to duty, undecaying love, and comprehensive obedience, so that there are times at which each is able to declare with the apostle, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me?" Shall not they of whom Christ has said, "The glory which thou gavest me I have given them," be permitted, without presumption, declare, "Of His fulness have we all received, and grace for grace?"

Such are some of the views suggested by the assurance that believers are changed into the same image. Let me now turn your thoughts, in conclusion, to the lofty and capa-

cious views of a believer's advancement, suggested by the words, "from glory to glory." The followers of Jesus go from strength to strength. With new aims, new energies are imparted. Every difficulty surmounted—every dark impression removed—even flesh enjoyment of light in the Lord, paves the way for reaching a more commanding elevation. The clouds disperse, and beams of ever-brighter effulgence burst forth as the promise is fulfilled, "Unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings." Such over-growing resemblance to the image of the Lord, we cannot fully grasp within the highest reach of our conceptions. But how lofty a view does it suggest of the treasure which Christ bestows in the immortal hopes which He awakens in His followers! This progress from glory to glory,—does it not tell you of a time when, from that place of nearness to the bright and exalted holiness which surrounds the throne of God and of the Lamb, you will look back on your present attainments as comparatively worthless, and wonder at any satisfaction you have found within an enclosure so dark and limited? But what shall be the effect of this animating hope? Shall it it not stimulate to increased activity, and fervent prayer, and the diligent employment of word and ordinance? Can they loiter or be contented with sluggish and encumbered progress who are destined to advance from glory to glory,—wave succeeding wave in endless succession, while the tide rolls on in a boundless ocean of light, and love, and holiness, and life? Oh! my friends, by that glory of the Lord which you are invited to behold,—which you see reflected, in the record of the words and works of the Man Christ Jesus, descending from the brightness and purity of heaven that He might mingle with the darkness and pollution of a sinful world, and in the complete accomplishment of His high enterprize,—that glory which throws a flood of imperishable light over the scenes of His suffering, and conflict, and triumphant victory,—by that glory I now exhort you, as you rejoice in your Christian discipleship, to forget the things which are behind—to reach forth unto those things which are before—to aim after the highest possible attainments—to press on to the full assurance of hope—to seek even on earth that purity, and truth, and comprehensive obedience, and love to God and to man, which Paul sought when he pressed toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. The season of incessant warfare, of earnest purpose, and partial performance, is passing rapidly away. Days and months of pain, or of enjoyment; years clouded with depression, or gladdened by affection and successful labour, tell us, in their departure, that we too shall soon be removed. But let us rejoice, that when this place of sight, and of actual experience shall be resigned, we are permitted to anticipate the