

kingdom by the way, he heard of something better—he was instructed in the knowledge of the true one God, and he returned to tell his subjects of Jesus and the cross. That the good news may still be wafted northward, the youthful Edwin of Deira is driven from his dominions, by the rude hand of an usurper, that he may become acquainted with the Christian religion, and have the idols of his heart dethroned, while he seeks for refuge in the south. At length being raised to the throne of Northumbria, Providence again makes passion subservient to its ends. He marries a Christian princess of Kent, who along with her favourite ecclesiastic succeed in establishing the religion of Christ in the north. And the manner in which this was effected, leads us to say with Egypt's magicians, "This is the finger of God."—An august conclave of nobles, councillors, and priests are assembled at "The home of the protection of the gods," to consider the question *whether shall Christianity or paganism triumph*. The side of paganism is keenly advocated when Paulinus stands up, like Elijah amid the prophets of Baal, and boldly contends for the cause of truth. Hosts are against him, but He that is with him is mightier than they. God was present in that assembly, and the bitterest foes of Christianity are changed into friends. The high priest, whom we would have expected least of all, is heard acknowledging the vanity and absurdity of that religion to which he owed his honors, his livelihood, and his influence. The assembled multitudes are convinced, and soon after temples of idolatry are razed to the ground, and Christian churches reared in their places. Like the leaven in the parable, Christianity soon spread from state to state, until the whole was leavened with gospel truth. Error and superstition gradually lost hold of the minds of the people, while the torch of truth lighted

up the gloom that former ages had only tended to thicken. Barbarism set and civilization dawned. Ignorance retired, while knowledge advanced. Necromancy, sorcery, and witchcraft died in the land, and arts and sciences were born. Rudeness gave way before refinement. Those who had formerly been famed for depravity became models of virtue, and holiness. And where formerly the shield and the spear were uplifted, was now borne the banner of the cross. Righteousness reigned where wickedness had previously tyrannized, and amid the valleys of England where, a few years before, had echoed only the horn of the hunter, and the clarion of war, there was now heard the melody of praise. Those who had in vain called to the rocks and the hills for assistance now looked up in faith to that God, who existed before the mountains were brought forth, for that religion, which alone can satisfy the cravings of the human soul, and which alone can raise a nation to true greatness, had taken root in the land. And all its subsequent history up to the present time, has gone to prove that the God of Providence has and ever shall watch over its destinies. Foes may have kindled fires around it with revenge, and implacable hatred, but like the bush that Moses saw on Horeb, it is not consumed; it still flourishes and grows. And Great Britain has felt as Obed Edom the Gittite did, when the ark rested in his house, blessing and prosperity attend her, for it is a law to which there is no exception, *The nation that honours God, He will honour.*

X. Y. Z.

Come forth out of Thy royal chambers, O Prince of all the kings of the earth; put on the visible robes of Thy imperial majesty; take up that unlimited sceptre which Thy Almighty Father hath bequeathed Thee; for now the voice of Thy Bride calls Thee, and all creatures sigh to be renewed.—Milton.