

1824.

1874.

GOD'S WORK IN THE WORLD

THE LAST

FIFTY YEARS.

A DISCOURSE

PREACHED AT

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BY

JOSEPH F. TUTTLE, D. D.,

President of Wabash College.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE following discourse was delivered at the request of the pastor and session of the Presbyterian Church of Franklin, Indiana, November 29th, 1874, the Lord's Day preceding the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the church.

"Of course that celebration, which occurred the following day, was the great event. The church for the time 'seemed to occupy an illuminated platform,' toward which all eyes were directed. Its jubilee was no common occasion. The people of Franklin were to celebrate the virtues and work of the brave men and women who had dared to meet the hardships of pioneer life, in order here to lay the foundations of homes and society. The pleasing task of reviewing what they had done belongs to the historian, who on the morrow would lay before the people his work.

"For a stranger to intermeddle with this record would be an impertinence. One of your own citizens is to trace the narrative of the past with a filial affection that shall make the history of the Franklin fathers glow like the panorama of a sunset that blends the beauty of earth with the glory of heaven.

"But whilst the people of Franklin have been doing their work the last fifty years, clearing away the forests, building homes, organizing schools and churches—living, working, enduring and dying—the great world outside of Franklin has been making progress also, and the review of that work shall not be an unfitting introduction to the more formal celebration of the morrow."

To these words spoken at Franklin may be added some that were spoken at Crawfordsville, a few days afterward, where the discourse was repeated.

"The Presbyterian Church at Crawfordsville was organized by the Rev. Isaac Reed, in June, 1824. The town was laid out by Major Ambrose Whitlock and Judge Williamson Dunn, in 1822.

At that time there was not a single town between Terre Haute and Fort Wayne. In December, 1822, the Rev. Charles Beatty—now the venerable Charles Beatty, D. D., of Steubenville, Ohio—visited the new settlement and preached in a floorless and doorless cabin. On that occasion—December 15, 1822—he also solemnized the first marriage in Montgomery County—that of the late Hon. Samuel D. Maxwell, at one time Mayor of Indianapolis, and Miss Sarah T. Cowan. The young man rode to Indianapolis, by way of Lebanon, to secure the license; the journey requiring several days of severe riding. In April, 1823, he was commissioned as Sheriff of Montgomery County by Governor Hendricks, organized the county and called its first court.

“As late as November, 1830, a clergyman wrote from Fort Wayne, ‘That from that point one hundred miles in every direction it is a perfect wilderness.’

“In 1824, Fort Wayne, Terre Haute, Evansville, New Albany, Richmond and Indianapolis were small villages, whilst none of the towns on the Wabash above Terre Haute were yet founded. That beautiful and honored veteran of our Church, the Rev. Dr. Martin M. Post, reached Logansport on Christmas Day, 1829. The town then had thirty or forty families, and the county besides only eight or ten. ‘Out of Fort Wayne and Logansport,’ says Dr. Post, ‘there were not in Indiana, north of the Wabash, three hundred inhabitants. From several points of the compass a traveler day after day might have taken his course in a direct line to this place (Logansport) without his eye being cheered even by the roughest quarters of the backwoodsman.’ Thus we see that as late even as 1830, Indiana was a State in the wilderness.

“But there is another fact which is so pleasant and marked that I am not willing to let it go by unnoticed. We have still living among us a Presbyterian minister in the Rev. James Hervey Johnston, who reached Madison, December 9, 1824, not two weeks after the Franklin Church was founded. A few days afterward he made a journey on horseback to Indianapolis and spent Sabbath, December 26, within the bounds of the Franklin Church, preaching in the morning at Young’s Fork, and in the evening at Franklin. On March 10, 1825, he began his ministry in Madison. For half a century he has been engaged in the active duties of his calling. Crowned with honor, universally esteemed, and still bringing forth fruit in old age, he lives among us an object of affection and vener-

ation. His entire ministerial life, beginning in 1824, has been spent in Indiana, and covers the period we are to review. I am sure the prayer for a blessing on our venerable friend and fellow-citizen will not be limited to those Christian people who adopt *The Confession of Faith.*"

To this it may be added that this discourse has been repeated at Lane Seminary, Peoria, Rushville, Lafayette, Logansport and Wabash.

These facts constitute a pleasant preface to the discourse itself, which compares the world in 1824 with the world in 1874—in order to show what progress it has made during that period.

GOD'S WORK IN THE WORLD THE LAST FIFTY YEARS.

TEXT.—Numbers xxiii. 23: "*What God hath wrought!*"

My theme is, *God's work in the world the last fifty years*; and, in the first place, let me show in what ways it may be said that God has been working in the world.

In general God works through the so-called laws of nature. These are a necessary condition to the more specific methods which I shall name. Progress in any department of nature, or in the spheres where rational and free human beings act, is conditioned on the constancy with which the Creator works through the laws of nature.

It is a very surprising and beautiful fact that human progress is very closely connected with the work of men of genius. This progress has been dependent on the scientific discoveries, the practical inventions, and upon the philosophical formulas which express the rights of men in society, and their faith as moral beings in God. The ordinary mind gropes in vain in the midst of the endless mazes of material and spiritual phenomena until the men of genius open the hidden mysteries of nature, and announce the great principles which determine man's relations in the family, the society, and the moral government.

Mr. Carlyle pleasantly speaks of such men as "the living light-fountain, which it is good and pleasant to be near; * * * not as a kindled lamp only, but as a natural luminary, shining by the gift of Heaven."

What a debt the world owes to the men who have made the great discoveries of the forces which have given such an impulse to human progress, electricity, electro-magnetism, steam, and who have invented the steamboat, the railway, the telegraph, the mowing and the sewing machines! Surely such are "luminaries shining by the gift of Heaven."

And so are the men who have genius to make and employ money to produce values. The silver and the gold are the Lord's, if for no other reason that money-makers receive their gift to make money from Him who taught Newton the path among the stars, and the scientist the secret things of the Lord in nature.

The same is true of the men who have announced the great principles which guard human rights, principles formulated by statesmen, fought for by heroes, and died for by martyrs. They are God's workers, and in so saying I do not assert that each one of these workers is a good man. La Place was a great astronomer; but in saying, "There is no God," he was not so great as Kepler, who said: "O God, I think thy thoughts after thee!" and yet of both of them, and all whom they represent, God may well say, claiming them as his servants: "Shall the ax boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it?"

Let me here arrest this strain of remark by again

stating the truth that God in various ways has been working in the world, not only in the stupendous fabric of nature, but in the rise and fall of nations, in the advance of civilization and religion, in the bettering of the conditions of mankind, in the discoveries of science, in the works of art, in the creation and use of capital, in the deeds of great men, in every department of thought, in one word, in all that has taken place in the world. If so in general, then is it so also with the period with which we are now dealing. God has been working his work in the world during the last fifty years.

In the second place let me name and describe briefly several lines of thought which indicate how remarkable has been the progress made during the last fifty years.

I have already shown you that it seems to me both philosophical and grateful to recognize God as in these several respects working in the world. In this review we will not say even in our hearts with the fool: "There is no God," but rather with true wisdom: "What hath God wrought!"

My remarks will be grouped under four heads.

I. The physical changes effected during this period. I shall mention those mainly which tend to make the earth a better place for man's residence, and man a fitter inhabitant of the earth. Among these changes we have this, that millions of acres of land have been reclaimed for man's use in that time. Not including Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, 50,000,000 of acres of land west of the Alleghenies are now plowed that fifty years ago were wild.

In the islands of the Pacific that have been civilized during that period vast areas have been subdued. The Malthusian theory of increasing population, and the means of sustaining them not increasing, is a great deal farther from realization to-day than it was fifty years ago.

In this country, and no doubt in others also, vast tracts of marsh lands, and lands under water, have been reclaimed and built on. The values thus created in the vicinity of Boston, New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Orleans, and other cities, amount to hundreds of millions.

Not fifty years ago the favorite skating park of New York was where Canal Street now is, and opposite the city, on what was either marsh land or land under water, are the depots, yards, freight houses, wharves and piers of four mammoth railroads, and these properties are worth millions.

In this connection let me ask you to reflect on the vast revolution that in that time has taken place in farming implements. The plow, harrow, hay-fork, rake, scythe, cradle, flail, hoe, and a few more instruments in use half a century ago were very rude. In the coming Centennial Exposition a most attractive section could be made by gathering the rude utensils of the farm half a century ago, and placing them in contrast with the plows, mowers, reapers, drills, corn planters, threshers, and all the ingenious and varied instruments which belong to the farm now. Indeed in these respects, as also in the matter of enriching and draining lands, the improvements of seed

and stock of all sorts, the changes have been very wonderful.

The same might be shown of commerce and trade, and also manufactures, but I have not time to dwell on them to show the marvelous growth of such centers of commerce as New York and Liverpool, and such centers of manufactures as Lowell and Glasgow. I may add in this connection that the growth of capital in the world during that period has been enormous. Not to name the old money centers of Europe, what a vast growth of capital has there been in this country! During that period what vast fortunes have been realized!

Let me add a few facts from our census in regard to our own country, to show what has been done in this period. We have organized thirteen new States and nine Territories out of what was a wilderness fifty years ago, with only 89,000 people in it. There are now on that same area 10,000,000, who produce on the 50,000,000 of new acres they have plowed almost a billion of dollars annually. At that time Ohio, Indiana and Illinois had 783,000 people; to-day they have not less than 7,000,000.

The growth of this sort has not been confined to the Western States. For example, New York and Pennsylvania have grown in population from 2,372,000 to not less than 8,000,000. But these facts are sufficient as indicating the vastness of this class of physical changes during this period in the world, but especially in our own country.

Among the most powerful agencies effecting these and other great physical changes are the *canal*, the

railroad and the *magnetic telegraph*. It is a most curious and instructive chapter in the growth of nations, and in the changes which produce growth in values, to trace the almost miraculous effect of the canals in the old world and in the new.

Let me refer chiefly to our western country. Fifty years ago, in Central Ohio, thirty bushels of wheat barely sufficed to procure five dollars to pay a certain farmer's taxes! And at the same time farmers in the Wabash Valley actually hauled their wheat to Chicago, a load of it being worth enough when there to buy a barrel of salt! The Western States raised large amounts of grain which had very little value. The same was true of the coal and the minerals of the East and the West.

The canal was like Aladdin's lamp, turning these bulks of produce into gold, by providing for them a way to market. The Ohio, the Wabash and Erie, and the Illinois and Michigan Canals accomplished miracles for the western country.

The *railroad* was a mightier and more permanent agent, and the half century under review was in its fifth year, 1829, when George Stephenson placed "The Rocket," the prototype of all locomotive engines, on the rails, the beginning of a new and most astounding development that has changed the very world. Europe feels this power in every nerve. The force and value of it in Great Britain are incalculable. It is regenerating Egypt and India. It thunders along the valleys of the Nile, the Ganges and the Mississippi. It has tunneled the Hoosac, the Apennines and Bergen Hill. It has climbed over the Alle-

ghenies and the Rocky Mountains. It has bridged the Niagara, the St. Lawrence, the Mississippi, and, overcoming all obstacles, has spanned continents.

In 1824 there was not a mile of railroad on the globe, now it is said there are 200,000 miles, built at a cost of four billions of dollars. Over 74,000 miles, or one-third of the whole, are in our country. And this change has all taken place within the period under review. The first rail was laid on this continent in 1830. If we analyze the 74,000 miles of railroad in the United States we stand confounded at the results, since this mighty agency has reached every State, and almost every Territory, of the Union. The stage coach and canal packet are succeeded by the swift palace train, as the Conestoga wagon is by the freight train. It is astonishing what we can do in the way of travel through this agency. From Boston to Washington was a journey of several days; now it is a day's journey. Formerly, by coach and steamer, the traveler, in a period of from two to four weeks, could go from New York to New Orleans, and by a journey of several months to San Francisco. Now he can make the one journey in sixty hours and the other in a week.

This agency affects all things which seek a market, so that the railroad has made the eggs of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois now bring more cash than their hogs did before the canal and railroad reached them. There is not a pound of cotton, or a bushel of grain, or a fleece of wool, or a fat hog, or a fat ox, or a horse, or a foot of lumber, or a yard of cloth, or any article of any sort, produced in any part of the coun-

try, whose value is not increased by the railroad. The largest increase is in real estate. It is impossible to exaggerate when we attempt to tell what the railroad has done for lands and other real estates, whether in city, in forest, or in mine, or in manufactory. If we could get a fair estimate of the value of real estate in this country in 1830 we should find that the railroad has probably added to that value all it cost to build it.

It is wonderful to think of what this force, which belongs to the last half century, has accomplished for the world in very many respects, and without becoming a partisan in the conflict now going on between capital and labor over the railroads, let me invoke your kindness not merely for the railroad, but for the men whose brain, enterprise and capital built it. For the business world to-day the *railroad* is the king power that moves it and makes its business possible.

But there is a third agent, scarcely less potent, and in most respects far more wonderful—the *telegraph*. This, too, is the child of the last half century. Men recently dead remember the flaming advertisements in the Philadelphia and New Jersey newspapers of the “flying stage-wagon,” which would take only two days to make the journey from New York to Philadelphia, and the admiration excited by the passage of a letter from New York to Charleston in twenty days! In 1845 one Thursday the great fire occurred at Pittsburg, and the *next Sunday* the news reached Philadelphia! New York was separated by weeks from the capitals of the old world, also the new. But now, through the genius of Faraday, Henry, Morse and

Field, distance is annihilated as related to the transmission of news. The wires stretch over continents and under oceans, so that one in a telegraph office seems to be in the whispering gallery of the world. San Francisco, New York, London, Calcutta and Canton are neighbors. And I may not dismiss this part of my subject without stating that on the American continent there are 110,000 miles of telegraph lines, using 250,000 miles of wire; in other lands there are 250,000 miles of telegraphic lines, using 600,000 miles of wire, a total in the world of 360,000 miles of telegraphic lines, using 850,000 miles of wire. In this very year, 1874, there were sent over these lines 75,000,000 messages, at a cost of \$40,000,000! There are one hundred and forty-six principal submarine lines, which have laid 70,000 miles of cable, of which 50,000 miles are now in operation. The capital of sixteen of these lines amounts to over \$101,000,000! Truly, then, it was a divine thought, in harmony with facts, which led Miss Ellsworth to dictate my text as the first message over the wires: "What hath God wrought!"

What was said of the railway may be said of the telegraph; it has changed the very world itself. Business, social life, diplomacy, all things are changed by these agents of the period under consideration.

I am interested in tracing the changes effected in the various trades and manufactures within fifty years. As an illustration, one of the most important businesses in this country is the shoe business. Half a century ago machinery was scarcely thought of as likely to be applied here. In many country places

the cobbler actually went from house to house to make the shoes of the neighborhood. In the Middle and New England States were communities of shoemakers. There were thousands of little shops in which every pattern was cut by hand, every stitch made by hand and every peg driven by hand. Now machinery has assumed this work. It cuts the leather, fits and crimps it, sews and pegs it. In fact, the changes in this occupation alone are very wonderful, and they are a fair sample of changes in other forms of manufacture.

And at this point let me simply call attention to the changes effected in all kinds of business by *the division of labor*. The professions have been revolutionized by it since this period began. The lawyer of all work is succeeded by the lawyer who has a specialty, the general physician of the olden time by the surgeon, the oculist and the dentist. The old-fashioned merchant who dealt in everything is succeeded by the merchant who deals in one thing. Thus it is with all the occupations of life. They have undergone remarkable modifications in these respects within the last half century.

Fifty years ago all the trades that work wood did, as the shoemakers did, everything by human muscle. Compare an old saw mill with a Minneapolis gang saw mill, or a man sawing the lumber for house furnishing, or wagon making, or furniture, with the saws and planes of a modern mill, and you see at once how great the change in all these respects. We make mortises and tenons, we bore and we saw, we turn and we square everything made of wood, not by hu-

man muscle, but by machinery. It is indeed one of the most curious investigations we can institute to learn how many applications are now made of machinery to the manufacture of all sorts of wooden and metal merchandise from a shoe peg to a house, from an ax handle to a gang plow, from a pin to a locomotive. One can not touch a door, a window sash, a shoe, a plow, or any other useful article, without knowing that his house, his hat, his coat, his everything has been made by machinery which was not thought of fifty years ago.

New businesses have sprung up and grown to enormous magnitude within that period. For instance, shops for making and repairing cars in 1870 produced for market \$31,000,000, and for railroad repairing \$27,500,000! And to this we must add the capital and labor, jointly producing the almost inconceivable amounts of railroad iron, which in this and other counties are on the 200,000 miles of railway, and we see at once what has been done in this direction that was scarcely begun fifty years ago. It may be said, without exaggeration, that the great manufacturing towns and cities of this country have been founded, or at least attained their greatness, during this period. Lowell, Lawrence, Fall River, Newark, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago, and many such busy manufacturing places belong to this half century. The changes have been so vast and the results so great in the new manufactures alone, such as railway iron, locomotives, railway cars, sewing machines, agricultural machinery, and many other kinds of new businesses, that they seem like some wonder of a

fairy-tale rather than a sober reality, whose magnitude is too great for us to comprehend.

With a like result shall we be met if we remember that even inland steamers belong principally to this period, whilst all the wonders of the ocean steamers belong exclusively to it. One is both amused and amazed to note the much lauded but very cold fire-places of fifty years ago and compare them with the beautiful and comfortable stoves of our own day. The words "cooking stove" belong to the last half century, and they tell of amazing progress. Fifty years ago only the rich could purchase the coveted portrait and work of art, but now photography ministers both to the taste and affection of the rich and the poor. Within the last fifty years the vulcanization of india-rubber has added very greatly to the health and comfort of the human family, and that in a great many ways. It is a very wonderful agent in the world of to-day. To how many uses do we apply it?

To the same period belongs another famous discovery, which has brought relief to the multitudes of unfortunate people in the home, the hospital, and on battle-field, who have found the surgeon's knife the only means of escaping death.

Who can measure the value of the discovery of chloroform, the beautiful angel of the hospital and surgeon's table?

How much of human welfare and happiness depend on the means of producing light? Fifty years ago the tallow candle and the oil lamp shed light on the house-wife in her kitchen, the lady in her parlor, the mechanic in his shop, and student at his books.

With very little exception, the streets of the largest cities were then lighted with oil lamps, or were not lighted at all. But since the period began which is now under review, we may say in the words of Job: "The rock pours us out rivers of oil," and the mines of darkness furnish us coal which produces the most beautiful illuminating gas, now shedding light on countless homes, places of business and cities where men dwell.

Fifty years ago men, and even women, reaped with the sickle the harvest fields of the earth and mowed its meadows. How great a labor this was some of us remember. But thousands of mowing and reaping machines now transfer this immense labor from human to brute muscles. The song of the shirt: "Stitch! stitch! stitch!" was a very tragical fact in the lives of millions of men and women fifty years ago, but to-day millions of sewing machines have relieved the aching human fingers by compelling fingers of steel to do their work.

Fifty years ago most of the printing was done by the cruel hand press; to-day steam does the press-work.

Fifty years ago there were a few newspapers in this country, and there was only one religious weekly, but to-day our religious weeklies are numbered by the hundred, and our political and other newspapers by the thousand, and their issues by the million. In a word, if we compare our own country and the civilized nations of the old world as they are to-day with what they were half a century ago, these changes of a physical nature being almost miraculous, we may

well recognize the presence of a Higher Power, and exclaim: "What hath God wrought!"

II. Let us consider the last half century's progress in *educational* and *eleemosynary* institutions. There has been a great advance in the means of technical education in the old world, as in other departments. Popular education is gaining ground on the other side of the seas. Prussia has been a stern teacher of Europe, and such nations as France are learning the lesson. Education in the Sandwich Islands and other Pacific groups has made great progress.

The old world is waking up to know how important and obligatory the work of education is, and light is dawning on the masses. Whilst the Free Public School of this country dates back about two centuries, yet especially, outside of New England, this great American idea has received its chief development since 1824. In 1870 the Public Schools numbered 125,000, with 183,000 teachers and 6,228,000 pupils. Their cost was \$64,000,000. The higher institutions in 1870 numbered 16,545, with 37,700 teachers and 981,000 pupils. They cost that year \$30,675,000. In both the Public and the Higher Schools the growth in fifty years was from almost nothing.

The appalling illiteracy does not diminish the grand facts just named. Were we to name our colleges and universities, and were we able to name the sums bestowed by public and private munificence in the last fifty years, they would constitute an item of great splendor. Not stopping to name what has been done for the eastern colleges by benevolent men, I

may add that, with small exception, all the higher institutions of learning west of the Alleghenies have been planted and have become what they are during this period. Indeed, the work for education in that time has been one of almost inconceivable grandeur.

It is said that the *asylum* is the child of Christianity. The Romans had camps, the Greeks had groves, the civilizations of the old world had temples and fanes, but they had no asylum, no hospital, no retreat for the unfortunate.

A Christian clergyman first undertook to loose the tongue of the deaf; another devised the sign language for them, and another started the magnificent charities which are now the glory of our country. The Church of Christ is the mother of asylums, and I need not name the great Christian men—clerical and lay—who have conducted these enterprises to their present glory.

The work of building asylums for the deaf, the blind, the sick and other sufferers, has received its chief impulse within fifty years in the old world. All the twenty-eight blind asylums in the country, and thirty-two of the thirty-six deaf and dumb asylums have been built in that period.

If to these we add the beautiful charities which bring relief to the feeble-minded, orphans, widows, outcasts, vagrant children, paupers, charities unnumbered by the hundreds, and which have, for the most part, been the outgrowth of benevolence since 1824, we shall begin to see the great work of God in our world, bringing strength to the feeble and relief to the suffering. If thus we compare 1824 with 1874 in the several respects named as pertaining to educa-

tion and eleemosynary institutions; if we compare the public schools, the higher institutions, the professional schools, the asylums, hospitals and other institutions for the unfortunate as they now present themselves to us with the condition of things in these respects, fifty years ago, we may well exclaim with the historian of the Reformation, "God is in this history,"—and with Balaam—as he beheld the encampments of Israel spread out in such goodly array on the plains over which he was looking, "What hath God wrought!"

In the third place let me refer to the vast progress made in religious and moral enterprises during the last half century.

During that period the Sacred Scriptures have been translated into one hundred and fifty languages and dialects which, added to the fifty into which they were previously translated, bring the vernacular Bible into the tongues spoken by most of the human family.

The various Christian Churches have had an immense growth within fifty years. The Presbyterians in 1824 had in the whole country fewer ministers, churches and communicants than we now have in the States and Territories, which fifty years ago were a wilderness; and they have a score of single churches, each of which contains more members than all the Presbyterian Churches of Indiana and Illinois had fifty years ago. At that time we had 1,080 ministers, 1,772 churches, and 169,000 communicants. Now we have 4,597 ministers, 4,946 churches, and 495,634 communicants. That year our whole Church raised \$37,590 for benevolent purposes. Last year we raised two and a half millions.

Numerically more wonderful is the growth of the Baptists who have quadrupled their strength and numbers. They report 2,000,000 communicants, and represent a population of some 8,000,000. This includes all the denominations which practice immersion.

The Methodist Church, or, rather the Methodist *Churches*, which spring from the Church founded by the Wesleys, have in that time made a vast growth. The M. E. Church North, alone, has of all grades 23,551 preachers, with 1,563,000 members. Including the M. E. Church South, the African M. E. Church and the Protestant Methodist, there are not less than 3,000,000 Methodist communicants now in this country at least, a fourfold increase within fifty years.

There has been a similar growth of the congregational, Episcopal and other Churches during the same period. I need hardly add that in this country the growth of the Roman Catholic Church has also been very rapid within fifty years.

The Sunday-school work was *organized* by the formation of the American Sunday-school Union, in 1824, and such has been its expansion since that time, that there are not less than 7,000,000 scholars in the Protestant Sunday-schools of this country.

The temperance reformation belongs to this half century. Forty-eight years ago Dr. Beecher flamed his immortal six sermons on intemperance in the world. It is said that temperance has done no good; but those who assert this have not studied the history of society fifty years ago. All classes then drank—men and women, judges, lawyers, merchants, mechanics, farmers, teachers, preachers. People drank in hot

weather and in cold, at social gatherings and at frolics, in the shop and in the field, on Sundays and on other days, when they were sick and when they were well, at the polls and at funerals. Dram drinking was the universal custom, and the effects were most awful in kind and in amount. The Christian Church was involved in the custom to an awful degree, as is shown by the records of our own and other Churches. As no arithmetic can compute the evils of intemperance in 1824, so it can not compute the numbers of drunkards rescued by this instrumentality, the blessing conferred on families, on communities and on churches. We need not be blind to the tremendous evil as it now exists, nor should we be ungrateful that to-day millions are temperate in consequence of this reformation which began in 1826.

The changes in the relations of the different Churches have been great. The early half of this period was marked by unfraternal strife, the latter half by Christian fellowship, vying with holy strife to see which shall do most for man and for God.

It has been the grandest era of Christian missions in all parts of the earth, as also of the most astonishing revivals in this country, Great Britain, Ireland, the islands of the Pacific, Persia, Turkey, Southern Asia, and other parts of the world.

I do not doubt that the converts in the revivals of the last fifty years number millions.

Remember, also, that during the same period the Second Reformation has taken place in Germany, Switzerland and France; that the Free Church of Scotland made its sublime exodus from the old Scotch

Kirk; that the Irish Church has been disestablished, and that John Bright now predicts the disestablishment of the English Church; that all legal barriers to the circulation of the vernacular Scriptures in Roman Catholic and Mohammedan countries have been thrown down, and that now the whole world is open to Christian labor. These and other facts show what a wonderful half century has this been for the world during which this church has existed. And when we take such a glance over the moral and religious movements of this period, well may we raise our hands in grateful astonishment as we exclaim, "What hath God wrought!"

In the fourth place I ask you to note the political and personal changes which have occurred during the last fifty years.

In a great many respects—the abolition of the corn laws, protective tariff, the disabilities of Catholics and Jews, the rotten boroughs; also the disestablishment of the Irish Church, the serious assaults on the English Church, the laws of inheritance and freeholds, and, in many other respects, the England of fifty years ago was very different from the England of to-day. The changes are in the right direction.

France within this period has dethroned Charles X., Louis Philippe, and Napoleon III., and has been repeatedly shaken with revolution. The France of 1824 was yet "the great France" that overran Europe under Napoleon. The France of to-day yet feels the humiliation which Prussia has inflicted. The boundaries of the French Empire have been narrowed, and its

conqueror has suddenly become the first power and dictator of Europe. What changes in France! What changes in Prussia! And in these changes Catholic Austria has also been forced to drink a bitter cup at the hand of Prussia. French and Austrian bayonets sustained the Pope on his throne as a temporal ruler, and resisted the unification of Italy. But now these intruders and usurpers are broken by a common foe. The lesson is one to think of! France and Austria humbled, the Pope's throne as a temporal prince leveled, Prussia the great empire and Italy one nation! It looks as if God had been in the business. How Russia also has grown! How sublime the enfranchisement of her serfs, how she clasps in her arms the great zone of the North on two continents, how steadily she reaches out her hands for the coveted Bosphorus, how great she has grown!

Spain has found freedom of some sort, but is in spasms, the issue of which we can not predict. The land of Ferdinand and Isabella, of haughty chieftain and bloody bigot, what a sight is Spain to-day! But we may hope for the best.

Need I refer to the changes in China, Japan, Southern India, Brazil, and other parts of the world, to convince you that the last half century has witnessed very remarkable political changes among the nations? And these changes have been mainly beneficent.

I have already mentioned some of the changes which have taken place in this country both in territory and population. We have three-fourths as many foreigners now as we had whites in 1824. Every fourth white male adult in this country is a foreigner.

How grave are the interests associated with this statement I need not stop to unfold.

But the greatest political changes in this country have been effected in another direction. Fifty years ago coffles of slaves and slave marts were common sights even in the District of Columbia. In 1824 the Quaker, Benjamin Lundy, removed to Baltimore, and since he began the war on American slavery, what vast moral, social and political revolutions have taken place! What giants have fought in this war, defending or assaulting this institution! Hayne and Webster, Calhoun and Clay, Davis and Seward, Marshall and John Quincy Adams, Toombs and Chase. I name not the editors, the lecturers, the preachers, who also contended. They were great men and fought stoutly over this political and moral heresy. Many of them are dead; and at last, in 1865, the tremendous war which had been evoked to settle it was concluded. How small the beginning, the Quaker Lundy teaching in a quiet way Christ's law on slavery, and at last the nation divided into two vast military camps to settle the question by arms. And from the moment the first shot was fired from Sumter, April 12, 1861, to the surrender of Lee, April 9, 1865, what heroism, what suffering, what battles, what dying among those who defended the Union! Oh, how many graves were dug, how many lives went out, how many hearts were broken! All this has rendered possible such eulogy as this, which scares us with its numerical and ghastly reckoning, whilst it thrills us with its pathos.

"Four hundred thousand men,
 The young, the brave, the true,
 In tangled wood and mountain glen,
 On battle-field and prison pen,
 Lie dead for me and you,
 For me and you:
 Four hundred thousand of the brave
 Have made our ransomed soil their grave,
 Good friend, for me and you!

"On many a battle plain
 Their ready swords they drew,
 And poured their life blood like the rain,
 A home, a heritage, to gain,
 To gain for me and you:
 From western plain to ocean tide,
 Are stretched the graves of those who died!

"A debt we ne'er can pay
 To them is justly due;
 But to the nation's latest day
 Our children's children still shall say,
 They died for me and you:
 Four hundred thousand of the brave
 Have made this ransomed soil their grave!"

The evil was one of fearful magnitude and malignancy. It had sent its roots into every part of society. It reached social businesses and political relations and even our religious life. It is not cured yet, nor will it be this year or the next. If it be cured by the end of the next fifty years, we shall have reason for thanksgiving; but he must be very blind who does not note with amazement what has been done since, in 1824, Lundy, the abolitionist, removed to Baltimore.

Here and elsewhere the drift is toward human elevation. God is breaking the chains of man and mak-

ing him a freeman. The work accomplished in this respect within fifty years is very great. If we except Brazil and Spain, all Christian nations have abolished human slavery. Clarkson and Wilberforce come into this half century, and saw with their own eyes the British West Indies delivered from the curse, and the premonitions of the end of slavery here and throughout the world; so that we may justly call the last half century the grandest period of history for the progress of liberty.

Death is the monarch of change among men. Since the last half century began this power has vacated every throne in Europe at least once, and has cut down fourteen men who had exercised the functions of the President of these United States. On the fourth of July, 1826, Adams and Jefferson died, and on the fourteenth of April, 1865, Abraham Lincoln. Between these extremes were Madison, Monroe, Jackson, John Quincy Adams, Van Buren, Harrison, Tyler, Polk, Taylor, Fillmore and Buchanan.

The leaders of the world in all its spheres fifty years ago are dead—soldiers, inventors, scientists, authors, orators, capitalists, rulers. It would be tedious to name only a small part of the names of the great dead of the last half century. Let these suffice: Wellington, Metternich, Palmerston, Webster, Clay, Silas Wright, Calhoun, Winfield Scott, John Marshall, Thomas Chalmers, Lyman Beecher, Archibald Alexander, William Wirt, Davy, Humboldt, Faraday, Morse, and oh, how many more! Aye, if we may come from these exalted heights where the great dwell to the lower level of common life, we find

that since the pioneers smote the first tree in Franklin, twice a thousand million of human beings have died. In all the solemn mysteries of life and death, how much have mankind experienced in that time! Infants have wailed and smiled, the young have run without weariness and have looked to the future with hope, manhood has loved and toiled, old age has looked wistfully back to the past and shrinkingly forward to the future, and yet amid the countless varieties of human experience, one fact has been frowning on the world and scaring it—I mean DEATH!

Well may we, on such an anniversary, say of the “stream of time,” which has carried away almost two generations of our fellow-creatures, with all appertaining to them, since the fathers began their work here:

“It is a widespread stream
And every valley fills;
It covers the plains,
And the high domains—
Of the everlasting hills.

“It is a ceaseless stream,
Forever flowing fast;
Like a solemn tide,
To the ocean wide,
Of the far unfathomed past.

“It is a mighty stream,
Resistless in its sway
To the loftiest things,
The strongest kings
It carries with ease away.”

I have detained you a great while with this rehearsal, and yet I trust it may not be in vain. The

last half century has been a very remarkable period in the history of God's work in the world.

The physical, political, social and moral changes wrought under God's superintending providence have been stupendous. What vast progress has science made! how almost miraculous the transformations of inert matter into agencies for human welfare and development! how full of hope the vast changes wrought in the social and civil and religious conditions of races and nations. For ages the race has been groaning and travailing in pain, under tyrannies of all kinds. Now freedom is shaking down these tyrannies. Ethiopia for ages has been stretching forth her hands to God, and is now receiving the answer in the model Republic of Liberia, the apostolic mission of Albert Bushnell on the Gaboon, and the peerless work of Dr. Livingstone, in opening to the gaze of the world the interior of Africa. Clarkson, Wilberforce, Lundy, Garrison, Lincoln, have been God's ambassadors to Ethiopia. Romanism, Protestantism, and Christianity itself are on trial at the bar of truth. I am glad of it. The furnace is not yet built that can hurt pure gold, and we may thank the skeptics of the laboratory, the library and the observatory, for putting our religion, our Bible, and even our CHRIST into the crucible to determine their merits. The astronomers who have gone half way around the world to determine the facts of the transit of Venus will not hurt Venus, nor put truth out of joint. No more will the assaults on religion. If any so-called religion goes down in that trial, let it go down; but not a jot, or a tittle of real Christian truth shall perish. And so for

fifty years these learned skeptics have been forced to demonstrate that "the words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace of earth purified seven times."

The race is making vast progress toward true liberty in government, science, truth and happiness. I say this in full view of the tremendous hold sin has on mankind. The world is far better off, and stronger and more religious than it was fifty years ago.

We sometimes say in our blind unbelief, that "if God works at all he works slow!" but who can review the astonishingly vast and beneficent changes wrought in the world during this period without repelling the calumny that God is not wise, strong and good enough to push all the forces of his universe forward in the line of progress for the good of a race for whose salvation he gave his Son to die?

We have been reviewing the work done in the world, and especially in our own country, the last fifty years. It seems to me that we can have but one opinion, that the world in many respects has made very astonishing progress.

We stand on the threshold of another half century. When that shall have been accomplished, the review of *its* progress must be made by some other chronicler, and before an audience made up of other persons. It is possible that some boy who does not now know his alphabet shall stand in my place, but his hearers shall be made up chiefly of those who are now young or not yet born. Few of us shall be here when fifty years have passed away. And yet, if we desire the reviewer of that period to have the materi-

als for a pleasing sketch of God's work in the world, we must ourselves so discharge the duties we owe the world and God, as that we can commit our trust to our successors in a better condition than we received it from our fathers. If, in all fidelity to God and to man, we live and work, the waste places of the world shall so blossom, the rough places shall so grow smooth, and the dark places grow so light; the world shall so improve in all its physical conditions, and the race so mount up to a higher manhood, that the chronicler of the next fifty years shall be able to say as I now say, in wonder and hopefulness: "What hath God wrought!"

