

promote their return to Palestine. This was accomplished under Zerubbabel; and when, after many years of trial, it became important to have the walls of Jerusalem rebuilt, and the population reformed from their idolatries and immoralities, then appeared Ezra and Nehemiah, whom God had been secretly educating for the difficult work; and they carried it through only as men disciplined in such a school could do it.

It will be unnecessary, before this audience, to show how perfectly adapted to his work was the Saviour of the world, although in truth it be the most striking illustration of my subject which the world has ever witnessed. But the facts are already in your memories; and were they not, volumes, rather than a few paragraphs, would be requisite to elucidate the subject.

For the same reasons, I need not dwell upon the history of the apostles; and yet gladly would I linger here, especially upon that of Paul. Had you seen him, a proud, talented young man, in the school of Gamaliel, intolerant in the extreme towards every thing connected with Christianity, standing by when Stephen was stoned, and encouraging his murderers, and afterwards rushing like a tiger towards Damascus, to seize the unoffending followers of Christ, who, all this time, could have imagined that such a school was the one best adapted to prepare him for the great work before him? Yet it was just the experience he needed. His future work required talents of the first order, a boldness and perseverance amounting almost to rashness, and such a conviction of the great truths of religion as could result only from personal experience of their power. He who was to combat Jewish prejudices must know from experience what they were, and be familiar with the whole Jewish economy. He