

Such are the vain phantoms which most men pursue through all their days, urged on by the deep, restless, unsatisfied wants of their nature. Nor does one in a thousand fancy that he is walking in a vain show, until God's Spirit opens his eyes to see the plague of his own heart. He is amazed and overwhelmed by the view. Such deep and dreadful depravity, pervading his whole nature, he never once suspected. He can live with such a heart no longer. Ah, he sees now what he wants, and, prostrate in the dust, he cries out, *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.* His prayer prevails. He rises a new creature in Christ Jesus. The aching void in his heart is filled—filled with divine love and divine peace. He is saved by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. He has found, at last, the grand panacea which nature could never discover.

“This remedy did wisdom find
To heal diseases of the mind,
The sovereign balm, whose virtues can
Restore the ruined creature, man.”

During the preparatory process that goes before regeneration, as well as in the act, the peculiar adaptedness of another great doctrine of the gospel to human wants is made most manifest. The man is deeply conscious of having broken the law of God; and when he is made to feel how reasonable that law is, and how holy, he does not see how he can be pardoned. The law only condemns him, but discloses not one gleam of hope. He looks around solicitously for some way of escape. He inquires whether he can himself make any offerings to God that will be a ground of pardon. Especially may not the sacrifice of animal life avail? To such sacrifices have men in all ages and countries resorted, either