

scene of things — great, at least, when measured by man's large capacity of conceiving of the good and fair — seems to be, like all human hope when restricted to time, an expectation doomed to disappointment. There are certain limits within which the race improves ; — civilization is better than the want of it, and the taught superior to the untaught man. There is a change, too, effected in the moral nature, through that Spirit which, by working belief in the heart, brings its aspirations into harmony with the realities of the unseen world, that, in at least its relation to the future state, cannot be estimated too highly. But conception can travel very far beyond even its best effects in their merely secular bearing ; nay, it is peculiarly its nature to show the men most truly the subjects of it, how miserably they fall short of the high standard of conduct and feeling which it erects, and to teach them, more emphatically than by words, that their degree of happiness must of necessity be as low as their moral attainments are humble. Further, — man, though he has been increasing in knowledge ever since his appearance on earth, has not been improving in faculty ; — a shrewd fact, which they who expect most from the future of this world would do well to consider. The ancient masters of mind were in no respect inferior in calibre to their predecessors. We have not yet shot ahead of the old Greeks in either the perception of the beautiful, or in the ability of producing it ; there has been no improvement in the inventive faculty since the Iliad was written, some three thousand years ago ; nor has taste become

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man first entered upon this scene of being, with all which shall yet come and go, until the resurrection of the dead terminates the work of Redemption, may be included, and probably *are* included, in the one Sabbath day of God.