

him most brilliantly, by a mingled radiance of gold-and-silver hue; at the same time the gigantic image, surrounded by innumerable hosts of shining ones, who took no part in the transactions, except as spectators, raised his arm and pointed toward that mortal, while from his outstretched hand there poured upon him a stream of the clear, blue light of truth, which elevated his heart, at the same time that it rendered his aspect awful and sublime.

As the foremost of the assailants reached the summit, they paused for their companions to join them, and when at length a number had clambered up to warrant them, as they thought, to advance, they saw that they were far outnumbered, and they hesitated and looked about them, to see what they should do. Being above the mist which had before enshrouded them, some of them looked with awe and awakening interest upon the scene around and below them, others gazed with stupid wonder on all they saw, while there were some whose mad passions were lashed into still greater fury by the sight of the purity and beauty with which they had no affinity, and which they felt no wish to enjoy. Some fell prostrate to the ground, as if they prayed the hills to cover them. Some knelt and extended their hands to the mortal, who was leaning on the pedestal, as if they were asking at once his forgiveness and his aid, while a few gnashed their teeth, and raved in their insensate fury. Among those I noticed one in particular. A man he was, of large intellect and great determination of character, who had once been connected with ties of intimate affection with that mortal. He was distinguished above all others by the fury of his ravings, and he attracted around him, as if looking to him as their leader, all who had kindred feelings. Their number was very small, and it was apparent to them that they could do no harm to him whom they had so thirsted to destroy. Uttering curses loud and deep against the craven hearts which had deserted their common purpose, they turned to descend again, but found their passage blocked by the ascending crowd. Their

retreat was cut off by the very aid they had invoked, and in their desperate madness they hurled themselves headlong from the precipice. I expected to see them dashed to pieces on the dark rocks 'mid which they had groveled so long. But to my astonishment the earth opened to receive them—a dreary vault from whose deep recesses dismal groans were heard, and whence ascended a smoke still blacker and more gloomy than aught yet witnessed. Down, far down, beyond mortal ken, they descended, and the earth again closed over them, yet not entirely, for some fissures were left, whence would occasionally issue some puff of that black and noxious smoke. At this moment I cast my eyes upon that mortal who was still leaning on the pedestal; and though he retained the same immovable posture, and the same calm exterior, I saw that his soul was shaken to its inmost depths by the horror and compassion which the incident had awakened. He now, for the first, removed from his position, and approached the dark mortals who were then on the summit. As he moved away from the pedestal, I saw that on three of its sides there were inscriptions, the fourth was yet a blank. I read a part of only one of them, on that side against which he had leaned, and I could not make out all that, for I was at too great a distance to read the smaller letters. All I could read was, near the top of it, "Jesus of Nazareth," and near the bottom, "Love one another."

He approached first those dark mortals that were prostrate. He took each by the hand, lifted them up, and spoke words of comfort to them. Then beckoning to him some of the people from the ships, he committed each one to their care. Thus also he next dealt with those who had kneeled. And I observed that those ships' people clustered kindly around each, and conducted them down the path toward the little hamlet at the foot of the gigantic figure, speaking to them kind words of cheering on the way.

He then approached the other dark mortals who had neither fallen down nor knelt. They did not seem to take

much interest in the matter. They said they had no feelings of ill-will toward him. They had come up because the others had. They were willing to go back again. It was nothing to them what he believed or what he did. He asked them to look abroad upon the scene now first disclosed to their view. To oblige him they were willing to do so, but they turned back to him and seemed to say, "Well! what of that?"

He left them with a feeling that but little, yet awhile at least, was to be hoped from those who were indifferent alike to good and evil, and he prepared to descend the precipice by the route by which they had ascended.

Numbers of those who had attempted to ascend were clinging in the path, but as he approached, they turned to flee from him, and hurried down the bank, in such affright and inconsiderate haste, that they tumbled over each other, and many of them fell down. He descended with ease, and found himself standing alone among those who but a short time before had, with such fiery haste, sought to destroy him. They looked upon him with various emotions, fear being predominant, for how could they have supposed that he would be so strongly supported, or could wield so great a power? In a little while, however, he was joined by the people from the ships. The admiral had landed, and now approached with a strong party. He advanced to that mortal with great respect, and received from him directions what to do. A general plan of amelioration which had been previously formed by him was now explained to the admiral, who caused the materials with which his ships were laden to be landed, and set his men to work in various places. The ground was leveled and fitted for cultivation. The fissures, through which the smoke from the dark pit occasionally issued, were closed up. Houses were erected, streets marked out, gardens inclosed, and that which had been a dreary waste bid fair soon to bloom and flourish, a fit habitation for intelligent and immortal man. Even the dark mist which had so long brooded over that unhappy

place began gradually to vanish away, and open a view of the brightness and glory of the firmament

The dark mortals wondered, and some of them began to rejoice at the advent of comforts of which they had been hitherto totally ignorant. But there were some who had chosen to bury themselves deep in those caverns, and for their redemption also that mortal seemed anxious, and after giving instructions in respect to that, he turned and wended his way back alone to his humble cot in the hamlet near the gigantic figure. As he passed along I saw that his mind was engrossed, not with the recollection of what he had done, but with the thought how he could yet save those who had plunged into that dark and smoldering pit.

He approached the hamlet apparently unnoticed, and entered his own lowly habitation. It was the same place, unchanged in appearance from what it was, when formerly in his agony he had entered there, except that I now saw written on the walls—

Would'st teach new truths and save a sinking land?
All fear, none aid, few understand.
Painful preëminence! yourself to view
Above life's weakness, and its comforts too.

He seated himself on the same pallet, but with feelings much, much more gentle and subdued. He soon perceived the same kind spirit to be sitting by his side, and he suffered her again to lead him to the door of his cot. It was no longer necessary for her to point out to him the beauties of the scene. He comprehended them at a glance, and felt a holy calm reflected from them into his inmost soul. She led him to the same spot where he had before caught a glimpse of the dark inclosure, his own former abiding-place, and bade him look again. The dark mist had vanished. The resplendent light from beyond the mountains was now reflected from the "firmament on high" down into that place once so gloomy, and lighted it up with the glorious splendor of wisdom and love. In place of that bleak and dreary waste which once had obtained there, there was now

seen a cheerful and pleasant village, and instead of people ever shrouded in gloom and goaded by evil passions, a cheerful, industrious, and comparatively happy population were evidently progressing onward and upward.

She bid him observe that these people in their happiness were not thinking of him, who had at so much risk to himself obtained it for them; and, while a momentary pang at this apparent ingratitude shot through his heart, she taught him to remember that his reward was to be found only in the consciousness of having done well.

Section Thirty-seven.

PART FIRST.

Sunday, June 1st, 1853.

This evening, at Dr. Dexter's, the circle were present, with the addition of Mr. and Mrs. S.

It was first written:

THE spirits are all assembled here, and desire that the elevated spirit who is here from the higher circles or spheres may have the opportunity of manifesting himself through the mediums present. Therefore, my friends, let your minds be very sincerely disposed. It is not often that an opportunity like this is afforded you. The attempt will be made to impress Judge Edmonds, and if they fail, they will try some other medium present. It is proposed that the Judge give his impressions as they come, and in the order of their coming, so that their character may be determined. With love so great that it is unspeakable, I greet you to-night,

and give you as my earnest wish this simple advice, Go on, go ever onward.
SWEEDENBORG.

While that was going on, I had a brief vision, which I record in another paper.

After relating that, I was again impressed, and for at least an hour I seemed to be in the higher spheres, and related to the circle what I saw. That, also, is recorded in another paper.

When that was over, I discovered that Dr. Dexter was in a magnetic sleep, and had been for some time. I remarked that the spirits were evidently attempting to impress him.

It was written:

Yes. Spirits are impressing him, but the whole attempt has been to impress others. The time will come when the one impressed will speak audibly the truths revealed. So let your thoughts be directed to this subject against your next meeting. Nothing more can be done to-night.

When the Doctor came out of his sleep, we asked him if he could remember his impression. He could remember only being on a high hill, and said that more was prevented by an over-anxious desire as to what was coming.

It was written:

There have been no distinct images imprinted on the Doctor's mind for the reason he has given, nor can there be, unless there is an entire passiveness of mind, and an attempt to bring the thought to one point. This is, indeed, a serious moment, for there are spirits here who have never yet communicated with man. They have left their high spheres to come to you, and they desire to find you all alike, your minds like wax, ready to receive impressions. Oh! my friends, strive to be able to receive all that is intended for you, that you may be able to tell the world the truths of God made manifest indeed.

Bacon called you the Sacred Circle, but your name will be still more glorious, so indeed you are worthy. Never yet have I cautioned you, never have I chided, but I am impressed to say, that if you would advance still farther, there must be a sincere desire rightly to understand all that