

Consider

1. That God, the Almighty & All-wise,  
is favorable to you.

Is there anything in the world of  
which you are more confident than  
in the being, wisdom, & power of God?  
You believe that ~~all things were made~~  
~~by Him~~ His throne is established forever  
& ever; that He possessed wisdom in the  
beginning of His way, before His works  
of old; that all things were made by  
Him, & that He upholds all things by  
the word of His power. ~~How great~~  
~~is a ground of hope and~~  
~~a consolation are these eternal truths~~  
~~in any time of oppression!~~ These  
are mighty facts. When ~~the~~ times  
are distressful, & anxieties are con-

man, & the world seems all full of  
confusion & weakness, these eternal  
truths loom up like the shadow of  
a great rock (Is. xxxii, 2) in a weary  
land, ~~like Sinai in the~~ Even if you  
felt no personal nearness to Jeho-  
vah, there would be rest in the  
thought, that God reigneth! In the  
dark days of civil war; in the midst  
of storms, & pestilence, & disaster  
— the most thoughtless soul, the  
most ignorant of the Scriptures,  
finds hope in the common belief  
of men, that there is a God, & that  
all power is ~~from~~ His in heaven  
upon earth.

But, ~~how~~ ~~prof~~ my heart,

3 He of whom these truths are asserted, is your God! Every one of these expressions I have used, ~~are~~ <sup>is</sup> drawn from a book which he has ~~sent~~ prepared & sent to you.

There is nothing which the Psalmists have mentioned so often, as their chief ground for hope, as the Holy Scriptures. The fact, not merely that there is an eternal ruler of the universe — but that that Ruler cares for him — has spoken to him — has given him an intelligible manual of divine grace for men — this fires the Psalmist's heart, & awakens the sweetest

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strains of his lyre. "Remember  
thy word unto thy servant," he  
cries to God (Ps. cxix, 49), "upon which  
Thou hast caused me to hope." "Thou  
art (114) my hiding-place & my  
shield; I hope in Thy word." "My  
soul fainteth (81) for Thy salva-  
tion, but I hope in Thy word." "I  
prevented (147) the dawning of the  
morning & cried: I hoped in Thy  
word." "I wait for the Lord, my soul  
doth wait, & in His word do I hope"  
(cxxx, 5). "They that fear Thee (cxix,  
74) will be glad when they see me,  
because I have hoped in Thy word."

Blessed, indeed, betterer, is it to

5 To have this ground of hope. That  
the high & mighty Ruler of the uni-  
verse, before Whom the Pharaoh of  
Egypt trembled & the monarch of  
Assyria abased himself as a beast  
of the field, that God should bow  
the heavens to speak a reassuring  
word to us, ~~is truly~~ should indeed  
lift our despairing hearts above the  
~~momentary~~ cares of time & inspire  
us with new desires, & anticipations  
of their fruition.

But God is not only your God,  
but your Savior. O unspeakable  
Gift! Out of every storm, & worry,  
& fear, I shall come forth safe;

for not only do I believe that 6  
God reigneth over the world, ~~but not~~  
only that He has assured me  
thereof, but ~~that~~ I may hope that  
in the midst of all His vast con-  
cerns He has a thought for me  
individually; His ~~means to~~ bless  
miserable & His power shall be exerted  
to save & bless me to all eternity!

Did you consider, my heart, and  
repeated those assurances of script  
ure ~~upon~~ upon which I said you  
found a firm belief in the Al-  
mighty & all-wise God, that every  
one of them is used of Jesus X.,  
your Savior? Jesus, who ~~became~~  
upon earth showed us the love of God;

17 To that ~~xx~~, I mean, who, earnestly  
applying himself to understand God's  
leadings in his trouble, can therefore  
look forward & say: This end  
that I believe God has in view in  
my affliction, He ~~will~~ will, if  
I suffer Him, being to pass, there-  
fore I will hope. So the Psalmist,  
in one of the passages where our text  
word "hope" occurs, cxxx, 7: "Let Israel  
hope in the Lord; for with the Lord  
there is mercy, & with Him is plen-  
tious redemption. And He shall re-  
deem Israel from all his iniquities."