MAN, THE OFFSPRING OF GOD, ETC. 371

has been seeking, from the commence-
ment of creation to the present time, to
benefit mankind, just as much as it was
in his power to accomplish, consistent
with certain laws governing and regulat-
ing the same, that he could not violate
any more than we can.

There are certain ideas that men en-
tertain pertaining to the world that we
live in, that it is enough for them if
they have only something to eat, drink
and wear. These ideas, of a sensual
nature, men seem to be governed by
to a very great extent. Jesus, in his
day, said to the people, and to his dis-
ciples especially—"Take no thought for
the morrow: What ye shall eat? What
ye shall drink? or Wherewithal ye shall
be clothed? (For after all these things
do the Gentiles seek.)" That is the acme
of their zeal, energy, struggles, perse-
verance and thought. "What shall we
eat? What shall we drink? and Where-
withal shall we be clothed?" Said Jesus—
"Consider the lilies of the field; they
toil not, neither do they spin: And yet
Solomon in all his glory was not ar-
rayed like one of these." God takes care
of the beasts and the fowls, the creep-
ing things, and of everything that lives
and moves upon the earth; he regularly
provides for them their breakfast, din-
er and supper, and if he did not do it
they would have to go without. He pro-
vides for us also, and has taken care
of us from our birth up to the present
time, and we are not so independent as
many of us think we are in very many
particulars. Witness, for instance, our
breathing. We breathe what we call the
breath of life; is it by any action of ours?
God made us and planted that principle
within us, and sleeping or waking our
lungs continue to play. There is some-
thing remarkable about it. I have some-
times gazed upon an old man, just on
the verge of eternity, perhaps seventy,
eighty, or ninety years of age, and I have
watched the beating of his pulse, the
drawing of the breath and the sight of
the eye. His breath has been inhaled
all the years of his life, not through any
agency or volition of his own, but sim-
ply by the organism which God made
and gave to him. Our pulse beats in
the same way, from hour to hour, minute
to minute, and our blood flows from the
heart to the extreme parts of the system
simply by the energy and vitality which
God imparts. When we come to exam-
ine ourselves we are not so independent
after all. What have we to do with the
functions of digestion, and many other
things connected with the human sys-
tem? In God we live, in God we move,
and from God we have our being, and let
him withdraw the breath of life and the
pulse stops beating, and in a short time
we become helpless, inanimate clay. We
are not very independent, we are all of us
in the hands of God, and when he with-
draws the vital power we go to decay.

God is watching over us, and he is
watching over his people. We realize that
we possess certain faculties and powers
of mind, and these and the power of con-
veying them to the brain, or thought and
reflection, comes from God; we are in-
debted to him for every power we have,
and so are all the inhabitants of the
earth; and as I have already said, he has
been seeking to benefit the human fam-
ily just as much as lay in his power, from
the beginning until the present time.

The first thing was—"Multiply,
and replenish the earth." Then, by
and by, through the power of Satan,
who I suppose was a necessary influ-