more may the Creator and Redeemer! Jesus does not  
say, “Till I come.” *Nowhere* is the *Saviour’s coming*made *equivalent in meaning to death*.  
 The reward is held up before the warrior. “I will  
give thee the crown of life.” Resurrection, specially as  
already realized in our Lord’s instance, is the *grand  
antidote to the fear of death*. In that, life lost for Christ  
is found again. Those who suffer unto death reign  
with Messiah the thousand years. Rev. xx. 4. But  
there are also special rewards distributed among those  
who are privileged to obtain a place in the first resurrection. There are *special crowns for special services*. To  
the elders who watch over Christ’s flock well, “the  
crown of *glory*” (1 Pet. v. 4). But this is “the crown of  
*life*” promised also by the apostle Jacob (commonly called  
James).  
 1. This crown is the crown of *victory*. As men  
offered a parsley-wreath to the victors in their games,  
so does the Lord offer His crown to the wrestlers against  
Satan and his potentates. 1 Cor. ix. 25; 2 Tim. ii. 5;  
Heb. ii. 7, 9. Satan threatened *death*. Christ promised  
*life*. Satan would cast into *prison*. Christ would lift  
up to a *crown*.  
 2. ’Tis also the sign of *royalty*. “If we suffer, we  
shall also *reign* with him.” 2 Tim. ii. 12; Rev. xx. 4.

11. “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith  
unto the churches: he that overcometh shall not be hurt by the  
Second Death.”

The lesson of the Spirit is designed for each who has  
an ear: not only for those of that day, and of that  
Church. The Saviour finds no blame with this Church.  
As it was suffering for Him, He lays on it no unnecessary  
burthen. He bids it only be steadfast.  
 Then follows the promise to the victor. These promises divide the believers of each Church *into conquerors  
and conquered*. And the promises are, I suppose,