

Isa. VI. 8 I heard the voice of the Lord

We lift to day the front cover of the new Ec-cy.
The vol is unread. One by one we shall turn its pages.
God in mercy orders that we ^{read} read one page at
a time. It is his loving wisdom that has
ordained, that the clouds should hang
low & impenetrable over the future.
And it is well. And we would say
this morning with J. H. Newman in
that beautiful hymn - "Lord kindly light
Keep thou my feet! I do not ask to see
The distant scene: one step enough for me."
But we have come to the preface
and that we would read to day.
Some things may be said in the preface
which would be out of place in the vol &c.
Why I am here needs no explanation
I am a Methodist preacher, eligible to every
appointment in my Conf. & liable to any.
I have never sought an appointment.
I have sought a few times not to have
an appointment: not because I did not feel
that they were regular &c. - I never felt called
to dist work. Los Ang. dist is perhaps as delig-
htful a dist as there is in our church.
When the invitation came to me &c.
I at once said if it shall seem providential
and the Bp. shall see best. I will come.
I said yes for many reasons.

Brethren I have great faith in the possibility
of this church. That with this magnificent
audience room it is situated, here in the
midst of this city, readily accessible. And
that I believed it possible to gather the
multitudes here to hear the gospel.
And that here could be opened up
an ever enlarging fountain for the
salvation of men. That here my Lord would
walk amid the multitudes to save. &c
That this Ch. would be a great light. like
a light house amid the billows. &c
As I thought of it I think I felt some-
thing as Ed. Irving. &c.

I come as sent of God. It seems to me
that nothing but the over-ruling pro. of God
has brought me to stand here. I have been
hitherto hindered. when once & again
you have so kindly invited me.
And now at this time I have been brought
hither. it seems to me entirely providential.
And I know that burning in my own
soul - is the divine message.

I recognize - that I am a messenger.
A glad messenger, of a glad some message.
I come to rejoice here in the midst of this city,
the song, which the angels sang. Recognizing
the fact that my message is the glorious
gospel of the blessed God. I bring a message that
gives joy to childhood. Leads the boy & girl into the beau-
tiful palace of truth & purity & love. That strews flowers

in their pathway. & bring crowns for their
brows. It brings strength to youth - bring in high
ideals. & strong pure emotions. & high noble aspirations
& blest touches of divine love.

My message is to manhoods strength. In prosperity
to crown it with the glory of that which is better
than earth. In days of conflict & strife
to put arms underneath & about of inf. strength.

My message is to poverty & distress - It comes as a
white ~~sublime~~ angel - with food for the hungry
& Care for the destitute. with hope for the dying

& preparing to every lip the wine of inf. love
which turns every possible earthly condi-
sion into a paradise. My message is to the

bereaved. the suffering & the dying
To bind up the broken hearted. to whisper
of his grace - & of the everlasting arms
To push back the curtains - so that the
eyes - growing dim - may see the doorway
of the palace &c.

My message is to men unconverted - full
of worldliness. To hold before their gaze
the dying - living Christ. To proclaim
the law of sin in their ears - to pour
upon their awakened hearts, the
hallowed light of Int. Vision -

I come to tread the way - you to lead
the way up the Mt of Transfiguration
To stand in the midst of the glory
of our Lord - & to see Jesus only. & hear him

I come with my ⁴ faith fixed on God
with you to meet difficulties & discouragements
Full of confidence in him who has
sent me from whom is my expectation
To co-operate with the H. G.

I come assured of your loving co-operation.
Every one who loves Christ
will love me - for I am his - And every
one who loves him and is ^{shall be} associated
with this church will stand with
me - And we shall have victory
according to the will of J. Christ.
And now my brethren - The Commission
of our Lord is upon us - So ye
make disciples - Teach. But he
says tarry until the Holy Spirit
is upon you & that ye Jesus - the
Truth - that going with you
awakens men.

We are to bring men to Jesus
to this end - to this place if possible
to hear the truth =

We are to so fill this place
with the power of the H. G. that
people will be pricked to the
heart.

Each member of this Ch. is to be a living
stone