

ber of people, some claiming to be leaders of the religious life, overlook the poetry and the picture, and like their types of old, whom they so roundly denounce, seek to reduce the imagery and music to a problem in mathematics, or a set of rules in syntax.

A

Thousand Years

The whole theory of Millennialism centres round the phrase "a thousands years" used in Revelation, 20. This is regarded as a literal, definite period of one thousand years, in which Satan is to be bound, and Christ and His saints to reign. How this figurative language came to be reduced to a cold, literal, time-calculated period, is described by Dr. David Smith, in *The British Weekly*, of December 6, 1917. He says:—"Its genesis is interesting. History is a succession of 'ages,' periods, or stages, in the development of the race, and the early Christian imagination, starting from the Jewish notion that the world was only some 4000-5000 years old when the Saviour came, saw in the story of creation a programme of the future, and mapped out the history of the world into six ages corresponding to the six days of creation. The first, according to St. Augustine, was from Adam to the flood, the second from Noah to Abraham, the third from Abraham to David, the fourth from David to the Babylonian Captivity, the fifth from the Captivity to the Saviour's birth, and the sixth from the Saviour's birth to the end of the world. And just as the six days of creative toil were followed by a day of rest, so the six ages will be followed by the Millennium, a thousand years of peace. Then the idea arose that each age hitherto had lasted a thousand years; and thus when the year 1000 A.D. approached, the belief prevailed that the