

PROPHECY.

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MANY at the present time are interested in prophetic subjects, but for the most part the interest is in the sayings of men who are no prophets, or in the explanations by others of scriptural prophecy in such manner that their interpretations manifest them as "understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."

There is much unrest abroad ; much uncertainty as to the future ; many misgivings as to whether, after all, the present state of things will go on to gradual declension until the proverbial New Zealander surveys the ruins from London Bridge ; many a sinking of heart behind closed lips as the immediate return of the Lord is spoken of.

The writer was told by a serious looking man, in a public conveyance some time since, that astronomers had found out that the star of Bethlehem was about completing its vast orbit ; would soon again be seen ; and that its appearance would indicate the return of the Son of God into the world : but all such fanciful theories are the creations of the minds of men, apart from inspired scripture ; and God now speaks through His word, not by revelation.

There are, however, many distinct fulfillments of prophecy ; many which are being fulfilled before our very eyes, and many which await fulfillment until a later day. The four great empires which successively embraced nearly all of the inhabited world are not only described with great minuteness, but in some