

MILLENIALISM

AND SOME OF ITS FALLACIES

The Millenium, real or figurative, has always been the ideal of the Christian Church. Before the time of Christ, the ideal of Israel was the coming of the Messiah and his messianic reign. The Old Testament writers, who pointed to the coming one, were the preachers and poets of their time. In days of gloom and despair, when Israel was oppressed and enslaved, when it appeared that the foes of the chosen people had completely triumphed, and Jehovah had forgotten, these messengers came to inspire with new hope and promise. In great outburst of oratory, in grand poetic language, in vivid pictures brilliant with coloring, these men pointed to a better day when God's promised Messiah would come and bring the world new hope. And these men, prophets, poets, apocalyptists never dreamed that their figures and descriptions would be taken literally and mechanically. **For mark you this, it was the literal, materialistic interpretation of these great prophetic utterances, by the religious leaders of the day, that blinded the eyes of the people to the Messiahship of Jesus, and led them to crucify Him.**

Among the New Testament preachers and writers were poets and apocalyptists too. In striking pictures they portray, with startling vividness or fantastic grotesqueness, the evils of the world, the woes of the church, and the history of their day, and in beautiful strains of poetry they strike responsive chords of music in the believing heart. But alas, a num-