

It is the time of gathering : 'tis the end :  
 Like comes to like, and friend is found with friend.  
 Divide! the order is; divide! divide!  
 Halt not between opinions! take your side  
 With Israel's God or Baal! And thus go forth  
 The unclean spirits to the kings of earth,  
 To gather all their forces to the fight,  
 Which ends in the destruction of their might.  
 And others gathered are. The Lord on high  
 Calls up the faithful dead; the living fly;  
 And both to Him are gathered in the air.  
 Thus for the final struggle all prepare.  
 The mystery of iniquity hath wrought  
 As leaven long; now to a head 'tis brought.  
 The ripening tares unfold their shameless face;  
 For He that hindered now allows them space.  
 The man of sin comes forth, matured thereby—  
 The lawless One, who sets his throne on high;  
 Who lifts o'er all the earth his iron rod,  
 And claims a place above the stars of God.

All things are hastening now to be revealed;  
 The sons of glory too, so long concealed;  
 The hidden members, fashioned in the earth  
 Beneath in secret, soon shall come to birth,  
 And light of resurrection. All creation,  
 In groaning waits the glorious consummation.  
 And they shall be revealed, heads of estates,  
 For whom the kingdom of their Father waits.  
 The double portion of the first-born they  
 Receive, and bear the everlasting sway;  
 And the saved nations all their honour bring,  
 Presenting to the children of the King.

What's Time? It is a parenthesis space  
 Within existence, running a short race;  
 Full of events momentous. It began  
 In Eden with the pristine sin of man.  
 Onward it passes : in its whole career,  
 Loaded with misery 'tis from year to year.  
 Its records are the chronicles of crime  
 And human madness. All the course of Time  
 Is big with turmoil, wrath, contention, strife,  
 And war, and misery. Such is human life!  
 And Time, as he advances, ever flings  
 Some new perplexity o'er human things;  
 Effects some change in evil, each more sore  
 And sorrow laden than the one before;  
 Brings forth some new-born wickedness, to chase  
 God's likeness further from our ruined race,  
 Until the last, worst monster comes, and then  
 The Great Avenger shows Himself to men;  
 Destroys the arch destroyer; closes Time,  
 And opens all the chronicles of crime;  
 Judges the world; its wicked scheme removes,  
 And gives the fashion to it God approves.

Meanwhile, e'en from the first, unseen by man,  
 Onward has the Almighty moved His plan.  
 (For sin has dimmed man's eyes and closed his sight,  
 And in his alien state he shuns the light :  
 Yet to a chosen few has light been given;  
 And such have ever seen the hand of heaven.)  
 Through all the darkest seasons God has wrought;  
 Securely forward all His purpose brought;  
 The wickedness of man, the spite of hell  
 Has used, that they at least His praise might swell :  
 At every step the enemy has foiled,

That, in the end, the spoiler might be spoiled :  
 Has watched, and kept the labour of the field,  
 And safely stored what treasure it might yield.

The Word made Flesh into the world was sent :  
 In travail, toil, and shame, his life was spent,  
 That He, through death, might work the Eternal Will,  
 And all the earth with God's own glory fill.  
 He took the labour, and endured the pains,  
 And turns them into everlasting gains;  
 Casts out the fiend who did to all aspire,  
 And binds him helpless in eternal fire.  
 For this a Name of dignity is given  
 Above the mightiest names of earth or heaven;  
 At which all knees in homage low shall fall,  
 And every tongue confess Him Lord of all!  
 Then He, the Mighty, Merciful, and True,  
 The earth delivered, will make all things new.  
 Order and beauty at His word shall rise,  
 And righteousness, descending from the skies,  
 Shall welcome truth, emerging from the earth.  
 (For nature struggles to the second birth;)  
 And Mercy, as all enmities will cease,  
 Shall seal forgiveness with the kiss of peace.  
 Death at His bidding shall be overthrown,  
 And pain, and grief, and sickness, be unknown.  
 The throne of judgment and eternal right  
 Shall be established in restless might :  
 The righteous sceptre shall o'er all extend,  
 And God with man shall dwell as friend with friend.  
 For man, subdued and peaceable, shall rise  
 No more against the counsel of the skies,  
 The will of God shall on the earth be done :  
 All wills shall then be harmonized in one;  
 All creatures' wills to unity be brought.  
 And His own will through many shall be wrought :  
 One creed in high and low, in great and small;  
 For God within them shall be all and all :  
 And in their midst a city he'll prepare,  
 Whose name unchanging is—"THE LORD IS THERE!"

Without regret, then, let the years pass by;  
 On Time's swift flight bestow no lingering sigh!  
 Trouble and Time their race together run,  
 And trouble ceases after Time is done.  
 This world and Time together have their course,  
 This world lies in the wicked one : the source  
 This of unnumbered ills; but so no more :  
 The reign of sin and darkness will be o'er.  
 The prince of this world sees his dark career  
 Foreclosing swiftly each revolving year.  
 "The world to come," too, rises on the sight,  
 And faith beholds it by celestial light :—  
 The world to come, whose course shall measured be  
 By God's designs, and by eternity.  
 Then come that world! Lord Jesus, quickly come,  
 And with mankind make Thy abiding home;  
 The earth is Thine! the nations are Thine own!  
 Bring them to worship round the Eternal Throne!  
 All things subdue beneath thy sacred feet;  
 And yield them up to God a holocaust complete!