

The Shall Come Again.

"This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven."—Acts I, 11 verse.

There is one clause in our Creed which teaches us two very solemn things with regard to the future. One is the certain coming again of our Lord to this earth, and the other is the purpose of His coming, viz., "To judge both the quick and the dead."

The earliest prophecy of this second coming is presented to us, not in the Old Testament, but in the New where St. Jude tells us (verses 14, 15), "And Enoch also the seventh from Adam prophesied of these things saying, Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousand of His saints." This warning had a very wide and full significance, although primarily it may have been fulfilled in the Flood, which was a great and terrible type of the Day of Judgment.

In the days of Noah the people were eating and drinking and marrying, living for this life only and altogether forgetting God, until they fell into such great wickedness that they brought His terrible judgment upon the Earth.

The world is growing very old, and the light the Gospel has shed upon it since the coming of the Son of Man has cleared away many grim shadows. But now, as in the dark days before the Flood, men are occupied with the things of the body while the soul sleeps.

During the sorrowful season of Lent and on Easter Day, most of us probably made very earnest efforts to shake off the habits of spiritual sloth into which we had fallen, and strove to keep near God for a little space, but where will Ascension Day find us? Among the faithful disciples gazing up into the blue depths of the heavens, beyond which the Master has disappeared, striving from thence to obtain some gleam from that hidden Glory wherewith to illumine our poor earthly lives as "witnesses unto Him?"

Close companionship with the Divine Master changed the spirit and character of the Apostles so that those who afterwards met them knew that "these were they who companied with Jesus." In a similar manner our close walk with God every succeeding Lent and Eastertide should bring out in each one of us an increasing likeness to Christ, that when He comes again He may know those who are His by this Likeness.

The certainty of the Lord's return we know, but the day and hour we know not. To-day, therefore, I must live my life in preparation for that day when the secrets of all hearts will be opened. What that judgment will be can only be expressed to us in type and figure, "the image of the winnowing fan which we find both in the