

with which our age is to close. Whether the Arabians, the Syrians, the Kurds, the Armenians, and the Jews, after obtaining their national freedom at the hands of the allied powers, will repeat the folly of the Balkan States after their victory over the Turks in Europe, and commence warring among themselves, remains yet to be seen: but it might easily be, and thus the final struggle take place on the old battleground in the valley of Megiddo, which would complete the full prophetic picture.

THE FIRST RESURRECTION.—In the chronological order of the stupendous events closing this age given by Daniel, the "time of trouble" is followed by the resurrection of the dead (12: 2): and St. Paul, with a fuller and later revelation, gives the order in which the dead are to reappear, viz., "the dead in Christ" only are to reappear at this time, and the righteous living to be "caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thess. 4: 16, 17.) This is the time when Christ is to "come as a thief in the night" for His children. No sign in the heavens is to herald that coming; even the children of the Kingdom will have no premonition of their approaching rapture; for the Lord's warning is, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in an hour that ye think not the Son of man cometh." This is the time when the Bridegroom comes for His bride, when "with the voice of the Archangel," which no one but the *called* will hear, those in the Intermediate state will come forth clothed with their "bodies from Heaven," and those yet in the flesh will be "caught up and changed"—both branches of the family of God being thus raised to Immortality—made deathless, like God. The final goal, the highest altitude the human can attain in the scale of being, is now reached. The children of the *resurrection* are accounted worthy of deathlessness—the crown of life that *cannot fade*—and a place with Christ in His throne, to reign with Him forever in His Everlasting Kingdom.

The Saviour also speaks of His coming as being manifested in some way throughout the earth—"For as the light-