

have been completed, and child and sire alike shall be under gospel influence. Unholy war shall have ceased, and the sword given place to the ploughshare, and the spear to the sickle. Then ravaging pestilences, and even the ordinary diseases now incident to humanity, shall be removed, as the Gospel, the great prescription book of the Divine physician, shall have its temporal influence in directing to the remedies for the maladies of man. Then shall human life be prolonged as in Antedeluvian times; and the age of the patriarch now, will then be the mere childhood of man. "No more shall there be an infant short lived, nor an old man that hath not fulfilled his days; for he that dieth at a hundred years shall die a boy; and the sinner that dieth at a hundred years shall be deemed accursed. And they shall build houses and shall inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards and shall eat the fruit thereof. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for as the days of a tree shall be the days of my people; and they shall wear out the works of their own hands. My chosen shall not labour in vain, neither shall they generate a short lived race; for they shall be a seed blessed of Jehovah; they and their offspring with them."* Such is the glorious vision of the future; and all hail! to the progress and triumphs of Christianity by which the world is to be blessed. By the Bible we are enabled to look forward in hope. In it we can hear the true voice of the future; for it is the oracle of heaven in regard to our destiny, and incomparably better than ever spoke at Delphi, or Epirus, or through the auspices of Roman Augurs. Its faith is most glorious, its predictions most certain, its hopes most cheering, and its promises most true; for "the words of the Lord are pure words, the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."

To all this it may be said, that it is not simple prophecy, but the imagery in which it is clothed, that is taken to illustrate the consequences of Christianity. And why not? Even granting all to be imagery, still, imagery in the word of God means something, and that adduced must mean, at the very least, that there is to be a great and surprising change for the better; and if imagery it be, it proves that the change is to be so extraordinary, that plain statement will fail to describe it; and that imagination must be brought in to its aid. But we take all to be literal

* Bishop Lowth's translation, Isaiah lxx. 20-23.