

The words of the prophets made the doings of Jesus in the days of His flesh the signs of those days (Matt. xii. 22, 23). And have we not words in the New Testament which, in like manner make all around us at this moment, or in every century of the dispensation, significant? Have not words, which we find there, abundantly forecast the characters of such dispensation and given beforehand the forms of those corruptions that were to work in Christendom? They have told us what now our eyes have seen. They told us of the field of wheat and tares; of the mustard seed which became a lodging-place for the fowl of the air; of "the unmerciful servant;" of the Gentile not "continuing in God's goodness;" or of a "great house," with its vessels unto honour and dishonour; and of other like things. They told us of "the latter times," and of "the last days;" and they still tell the deadly character which the hour is to bear that is to usher forth "the man of sin," and ripen iniquity for the manifestation and power of the day of the Lord.

All this is so. And let me ask, if every hour be after this manner bearing its character, or wearing its sign, *what mark are we individually helping to put upon this our day?* Is the purpose and way of the Lord ripening into blessedness at all reflected in us? Or are we, in any measure, aiding to unfold that form of evil which is to bring down the judgment? If the times were to be known and described according to our way, what