

portion of scripture it occupies, and it surely should not be disposed of in a summary manner. The public mind yearns to grasp the extraordinary—the spiritual in the future. This, I cannot avoid regarding as indicative of the speedy fulfilment of those predictions, as though God, who has revealed so much of the future, is leading the way to the actual development of them, by implanting an anticipation of coming events in the minds of men, as signifying their approaching consummation. This yearning after the future is the reason why any wild theory is so readily received; and why all the vagaries of second Adventism, Millerism, Mormonism, and spirit rapping, have become so rampant. Have not we, ministers, been partly to blame for all this. We have refused the people that sound development of the foreshadowings of the future, which the word of God furnishes. Instead of grasping these prophetic disclosures, and judiciously developing their contents, by which we might have satisfied the desires of their minds, we have been silent, and have left the matter in the hands of cunning, designing, and reckless men. In this book, I trust, there is enough of what is directly in opposition to all this, derived from the sure word of prophecy itself, so as to render it decisively *a book for the times*.

This book, such as it is, has been written while the author has been engaged in the full and active exercise of the Christian Ministry. More leisure might have enabled me to make it more worthy of public perusal;—many of the ideas introduced might have been better developed, or more clearly evolved.