

For the Herald of Truth. THE LAST DAY.

Nations awake! the incarnate Judge is near, The signs prophetic visibly appear; He comes majestic on a fiery throne To judge the wicked, justify his own.

Behold He comes! the mighty God appears, Ancient of days, and Infinite in years; Soon every eye shall see his vengeance hurld, Like mighty thunder on a guilty world.

Ah! from afar the thrilling "Midnight Cry" Has echoed loud thro' Heaven, Earth and Sky, Virgins with lamps adjusted, on their guard, Will meet him now, and take their great reward.

See! from his throne issues a fiery flame, - See, Justice girt to vindicate his name, - See, bickering flames the elements consume, While millions rise to meet their final doom.

The Judge descends, sublime in grandeur now, Mountains are scattered, and the hills do bow; The stars confus'd, and from their orbs are thrown, While nature hears her last expiring groan.

Hear! the incarnate gives the great command To millions who in mighty phalanx stand - Who from the throne escort him down the skies, And view the saints in glorious triumph rise.

"Gather my saints from every distant land, " Acquitted they shall all before me stand, " Quick as the lightning's flash, the angels fly, And bend their burning wings o'er earth and sky.

Th' Archangel first in train - the trump is blown, The Book of Life wide open now is shown; The Emptyean with Hosannah rings, While Jesus all his saints to glory brings.

But oh! the wicked who have God despised, And hypocrites who have themselves disguised, Now feel the gnaw of the undying worm, Which, unaccounted, necessarily will burn.

Banish'd from God - consign'd to endless pain, With friends loud howling in the Stygian flame; There, while Eternity its course shall run, To reap the fruit of what their hands have done.

Farewell bright fields, where seraphs ever dwell, Hail, awful pit; and thou, profoundest hell, Hail, awful dungeons; hail, infernal flame; Receive us now, thy new possessors claim.

Thus will the wicked loud lament their fate, And cry for mercy when 'twill be too late; While God beholds them from his lofty throne, But will not listen to a single groan.

No so the righteous, who, in Jesus' blood, Have wash'd their robes as in a purple flood; They shall forever sing in realms above, And quaff with angels at the fount of love.

CHARLES J. ORAM.

August 14th, 1843.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CITIES OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH.

NATURE SMILED in her brightest. Nature smiled in her wonted loveliness. The heavens gave no portents - the earth heark'ed no coming desolation. Far around Sodom and Gomorrah stretched the plains covered with rich verdure. The night had been spent in accustomed revelry, and now the exhausted sons and daughters of wrath were gathering from morning repose strength for renewed debaucheries. All was quiet within the walls - no fears disturbed the careless dreamers.

There is a state of society where the daily business is mirth, where care and serious reflection find no place. All live for the hour, heeding not the future in the reckless enjoyment of the present. It is a condition of society fraught with present evil and future danger. The soul rises out above earth in its aspirations, its tendencies are downwards, and intellect, which should elevate to heaven, only helps to a degradation to which brute beings can never reach. So it was in Sodom and Gomorrah. A mild climate and fertile country had produced wealth and luxury - these had come with no attendant refinement - no educated mind, no high mental endowment awoke that ambition which sometimes raises even the wicked above the grovelling pleasures. Here the heart hardened by iniquity had no redeeming, no palliating virtues. Pleasure was sought in its grossest forms, and violence prevailed unmitigated in all its varieties. The kinder affections - not utter feelings of our nature found no home - not even amidst those relations which have some soothing influence in savage life - Parental affection and conjugal ties, and the decency of a social life, had become extinct in the midst of wickedness which alike defied God and nature. There was here no sense of the darkness - a darkness that might be felt, had not all the moral sensitivities become extinct.

Such and much more was the condition of the cities of the plain, and its inhabitants wearied with pleasure, had retired to rest; some perhaps even after that sun had risen so brightly - creeping again to renew their nightly orgies. But the last day had dawned on their cities - the sun

has arisen that shall see a yet more maddening scene - a scene not of mirth and revelry, but at which hearts that had ceased to feel shall quake with terror. Of all who through these streets by day or shout in the wild confusion of night - how many shall be that sun descend in the west? Where will be that multitude, but yesterday so gay, so thoughtless - where these cities with their wealth and splendour? Yet all is quiet - no cloud bedims the horizon - no lurid gale marks the coming desolation. To one alone has a warning come - to one, and to his family for his sake, worshipper of the living God - that man who alone amidst all this thing has been wont to bend the knee before the fearful Ruler of the universe - tarry not - judgment has been given against the place of thy habitation - the doom of these cities is sealed - the messenger has sped on his way - the kindly warning comes in happy time - but heed it - delay not in all the plain.

And now the man of prayer is flying to the mountains, and he must not stay even to drop a tear over the sad fate of one, who instead of casting wistful looks back on the doomed cities, with hurried feet should have kept by his side. But just now a wife, now a lifeless pillar of salt, he must not stop to bewail her end. In the mountain only is safety - away! - away! Lot, from the polluted soil.

He is safe, and stands on the mountain's brow. Hark! what peal is that on the plains below? Why changes the sun his face to lurid fire, bloody in its colours and vengeful with wrath in its seeming? What terrific flashes now dart across the plain, now blot out the sun with a blaze of fearful brightness? The very elements are on fire - the earth heaves in agony - the ear is deafened with the thunder in louder and still louder roar, as if nature were in a deadly conflict with herself. But hark again what, in the brief interval of the thunder's peal, is that distant cry that in its shrillness pierces the far-off air? That is not now the voice of revelry - there is no maddening laugh there - no music sends its notes across the plain - no mirth gives forth its shout from yonder walls. It is a fearful cry - a cry more dreadful than the angry noise of the embattled elements - screams more terrific than nature's wildest hoarsest voice, even when commissioned for destruction by the Most High. Let me shut my ears - let the thunder, in its mercy, drown that maddened cry - it is the terrified voice of man, of woman and child, when every limb is convulsed, and the very nerves shaking to dissolution. What now are the thoughts to which that phrenzied multitude have awakened? Conscience from a lethargy long and death-like, springs up into the fullness of vigour. A thousand sins, gross and deadly, rush clustering on the startled memory - there is no time for repentance, but embittering remorse the minutes to seeming ages, but all the short for escape from the impending doom. Fear would give wings to their feet, but whither shall they fly? Nature itself comes armed with vengeance. Here - yonder - all around - the sky, the earth is crying against the guilty. Mothers turn agast from the reproaches of children instructed from infancy only in sin - fathers would gladly escape the ghastly faces of sons in their very youth grown old in iniquity. They would willingly find among the terrified multitude the only man who could raise his hands and voice to heaven to ward off the coming destruction. But wherever the eye turns its net only by a living mass of moral corruption, ripe for devouring vengeance. Heavily desolated with sensuality quake in deadly terror, and well they may, for it is a fearful thing to the unrepentant to fall, their sin uncancelled, into the hands of the living God!

And around these scenes of wretchedness gathered and bursting forth walls of long-deserved wrath. And the lightning, to which the light of day is darkness, and thunder piled on louder peals on the deafened ear, pale every nerve, and the limbs grow rigid with fear, when suddenly the sulphurous smell and scorching vapours give passage of the last act of this mighty drama. And now a lurid flame, in one broad living sheet of liquid fire, descends on yonder cities - The last fearful wail has gone up - the death scream from a thousand voices had reached the mountains - a broad gulf of burning sulphur covers the cities but yesterday teeming with life - mothers with their children - fathers with their sons - all, all have been engulfed - life and revelry had ceased together - all, all were sealed in a moment for a yet more dreadful day. They shall again come forth, but no city or abode of men shall ever again fill the places of these cities of the plain - Mother's Magazine.

ROMANISM IN CHINA. - The eyes of the world are now turned to China. The mercantile world is eagerly looking for the opening of a new market for manufactures, and new mines for this world's treasures. The Christian world - less anxiously it is feared - is watching for developments, which shall tend to dispel the thick darkness that envelops the empire, and lay it open to the beams of the Sun of Righteousness. In the present aspect of things, it is as difficult to calculate what commercial advantages to other nations may result from a recent apparent change in the policy of the Chinese Empire, as it is to predict what spiritual benefit to that benighted nation itself is likely to grow out of the late war and treaty with Great Britain.

In a recent letter from Hong Kong, Rev. W. M. Lowrie, missionary of the Presbyterian board says, "From the room where I sit, I can see almost every house in Hong Kong; and what appears to me the most conspicuous place there - a Roman Catholic Church and monastery - These buildings, from their commanding position and large size, being the largest in Hong Kong, are the first that attracts the new comers' attention; more money has been expended on them

during the past twelve months, than on all the buildings of all the Protestant missions in China! I would that this were all I have to say, but I have more.

The Roman Catholic missionaries in China are more than ten times as numerous as the Protestants, and they are receiving large annual accretions, while with us the number of accessions scarcely equals the diminution by death and removal. While a single Protestant missionary was struggling to maintain himself in Chusan, during the last year, nine Roman Catholic priests came, and settled there at one time! When I was in Manila, in September, fifty-two Roman Catholic priests arrived there from Spain, in a single vessel, some of whom will probably find their way to China. - There are hundreds, and thousands of Roman Catholic priests in the Philippine Islands, who could be transferred to China, almost at a moment's notice; but where - where shall we look for Protestant missionaries for the great empire? I do feel at times discouraged - my heart does at times sink within me; when I look back to my native land, and hear how few are willing to come out - how few are earnest in prayer for us; how few act as if they believed the word of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is more blessed to give than to receive." - Boston Recorder.

AN INCIDENT. - It was on board of a canal packet between Whitehall and the city of Troy, New York, that the following scene occurred.

An elderly lady attracted not a little attention, in relating to an eagerly listening group what she evidently would have her hearers regard as her personal knowledge of the character, manners, and personal appearance of Mr. William Miller. The gossip group eagerly inquired after his size, complexion, tone of voice, profile, &c. The old lady proceeded as follows: "He is about six feet high, a large bushy head, his hair as black as a crow, black eyes, dark complexion, large Roman nose, raw-boned, ugly and dreadful appearance, and a voice like a clap of thunder."

While the listeners were gazing upon the old narrator with their eyes and ears all open, with as much eagerness as though the portrait had drawn would soon stand before them, as the ghost of Samuel did by the magic power of the witch of Endor, before Saul the son of Kish, - there sat by a lovely girl of sixteen or eighteen years of age, who had evidently been a hearer of very deep interest in the affair; though her interest was clearly of a different kind from that of the mass. As the old lady proceeded, there were emotions at work in the young listener's heart, that kept swelling, and swelling, and swelling, till they broke out in utterance the most sweet and affectionate, yet conveying a most salutary rebuke to the heart of the old tattler. "Madam," said the young lady, when she could endure the insult no longer, "Madam, I think you never could have seen my father!" "For," said she, pointing to a fine looking young man that stood by the cabin door, "they say my ancestor there looks just like him!"

Why do not some of the wise and great men of the earth embrace the doctrine of the Advent? Thus saith the Lord, Isa. xxx. 10-14. "For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes, the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered. And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee; and he saith, I cannot, for it is sealed; and the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee; and he saith, I am not learned. Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their hearts far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men, therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder, for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid."

THE END OF THOSE WHO WILL NOT HEAR. Thus saith the Lord, Isa. xxx. 9-14. "Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come, for ever and ever; that this is a rebellious people, lying children, that will not hear the law of the Lord; which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceus; get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon; therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant. And he shall break it as the breaking of the potter's vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare; so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water withal out of the pit."

Who will see the King in his beauty? Thus saith the Lord, Isa. xxxiii. 15-17. "He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shutteth his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; he shall dwell on high, his place of defence shall be the multitude of rocks; broad shall be given him, his walls shall be sure. Thine eyes shall see the King in his beauty, they shall behold the land that is very far off."

TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY.

"If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." - Isa. viii. 20

This text should be engraved as a motto upon the tablet of every heart, and as a frontlet between the eyes, and upon the palms of our hands. It should "be graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever." It should stand as a beacon to warn us of the rocks over which so many have stumbled to perdition. And it should draw us from the precipice, from which we surely will fall, if we leave the sure word of God. The Lord hath spoken, and we should heed his word. When he speaks, the heavens should hear, the earth should give ear to his word, and all creation should stand in awe before him.

If the word of the Lord is not a sufficient assurance to any, such would not believe, though one should rise from the dead; or if they should believe, in a time of trial they would fall away. But those who are builded and grounded on the word of God, have a rock upon which they can stand forever, and which can never fail. Th' will rains descend, and the floods break upon it, it will remain unmoved.

We should measure all truth by this word, and if it will stand the test of the law and the testimony, receive it into pure and honest hearts. And if it will not abide the test, we should reject it as unworthy of reception. A simple "thus saith the Lord," should always be a sufficient reason for his children. And we should believe it because the Lord hath spoken. Abraham, we are told, believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in the faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that what he had not promised, he was also able to perform." Here is where all should stand. We should first enquire "what God has promised?" and then we should believe it. We should not stagger at his promises, but should be strong in the faith, giving glory to God, knowing that what he has promised he is able and willing to perform to the very letter. For though heaven and earth shall pass away, not one jot or tittle of his word shall ever fail.

Why should any of the professed children of God manifest such dread at a speaking? Thus saith the Lord, Isa. xxxiii. 15. "The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us dwell with the devouring fire? who among us dwell with the everlasting burnings?"

OUR "SPECULATION."

With an earnest desire to awaken and to promote the spirit of Christ an watchfulness, to confirm the faith of believers, and to exhort ungodly men to prepare for the judgment of the great day, the publishers of this paper sent it forth, and expected to receive the hand of Christian fellowship from all who love the Lord. In many cases we have not been disappointed, and in some we have. Some of our brethren who were as dear to us as our right hand, or our right eye, have boldly accused us of unworthy motives. And why? Because our brother, who is associated with us as editor, had the misfortune to be born in the United States. We are, therefore, accused of "speculation, and a Yankee scheme to get money." But we thank God that the secrets of every heart will soon be revealed, and it will then be known who have heaped treasures together for the last days; who have been willing to offer unto the Lord of their substance, and who have not.

The following is a statement of what we have received and expended, up to Saturday, the 26th ult. Received, St. John - B. J. U. 20s. A friend, 5s; E. L. 5s; A. T. 15s. 3d; R. T. 30s; G. P. M. 35s, Frederick, Lincoln, and Woodstock. W. W., 5s; D. G., 10s; T. B. 5s; J. N. S., 5s; S. G., Jun., 25s; J. G., 25s; S. G., 10s; J. F., 5s; S. P., 30s; Studholm, W. M., 7s; Hampton, Q. C., J. C., 5s; H. D., 5s; Nova Scotia, A friend in Iron Town, 5s. Mrs. H. M., 5s; R. R., 5s; E. S., 5s; J. E. R., 10s; W. S., 2s; R. D., 5s; E. W., 5s; A. M., 5s; J. B., 5s; J. S. E., 5s. Donations under 5s, and sales of papers, £4 2s. 10d.

Total amount received, 218 10 1  
Expended for paper, £7 13 6  
do " " ating 15 18 0  
Incidental expenses, 6 6 0

Total amount expended, 33 17 6

Balance against the Publishers, £5 7 5  
E. M'LEOD.  
P. S. Persons who have made donations are at liberty to call and examine our books. E. M. Letters received up to August 30. - B. A. Hestis, 2; F. M. Shaw; W. M. Leod; G. F. Pomeroy; H. Gray; J. Bencroft; A. C. White, his request shall be attended to.

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