

veracity of Christ, and the proofs that christianity is of divine origin are predicated and contingent on the question, whether or not that prophecy was actually fulfilled.

The different phraseology employed in the passages above noted was intended to teach the people that it was then near at hand and within the life time of some that heard them. What crumb of comfort could the disciples reap from promised relief from their persecution and tribulation, if it referred to a time 10,000 years in the future. We have now seen that *all* that is said in the Bible of *the end of the world* transpired about 1,800 years ago, and for aught we know ten times that period may yet transpire before the resurrection and final consummation takes place. But the prediction has been verified in exact accordance with the time predicted that it should take place. And lo! even yet do we see people gazing after some dire omen in the heavens, as betokening the sudden ruin of nations, the crashing wreck of empires and kingdoms, in connexion with the immediate conflagration of our terraqueous globe. Yea, how many in this eventful year of our Lord, 1879, are trembling, Balshazzar-like, at the most common freaks of nature, as though their last expiring breath was about to take its final leap, and their earthly portion, in common with all terrestrial matter, about to be consigned to one eternal night. Our lunatic asylums have been occupied by large numbers whose minds, in consequence of some fanatic labors, have been wrecked in chaos on the dreadful thought of the immediate sound of the trumpet's blast, and their consignment to one eternal, lasting doom. Ought these things to be so? We shall now proceed to offer a brief Scriptural explanation of the phrase, *Furnace of fire*, so prominently paraded in the pastoral. Our space will not permit of any exhaustive statement of this subject, and will mostly consist in soliciting the readers attention to some of the texts, in both Testaments, where the terms "furnace of fire," "the worm that dieth not," "unquenchable fire," &c., are mentioned. Most all Biblical critics among the orthodox admit, what is plainly apparent, that the Saviour when He used these expressions to the Jews had His mind on the passage of the Prophet Isaiah lxvi : 23, 24, "And it shall come to pass