

in its fearful eddies, not fewer than two-thirds of the human family. Appalling consideration! And shall this state of things remain without melioration? Shall six hundred millions of our fellow men, every thirty years, pass out of time into eternity, "without God, and without hope"? Shall "the gods of the earth" continue to usurp the throne of Jehovah, without molestation? and shall they triumph for ever? No: our text announces the heart-cheering news, that "the Lord will furnish all the gods of the earth; and men shall worship him, every one from his place, even all the isles of the heathen."

In these words we have *the character of Idolatry implied, and its overthrow predicted.*

*First, the character of Idolatry implied.*

1. The text implies, that one trait in the character of Idolatry is *Polytheism*. It does not say the god, but "gods of the earth"—a certain implication that idolatry recognises a plurality of gods.

From every accredited source of information, it would appear that the Sun was the first object of idolatrous worship; and certainly to men who had lost a correct knowledge of the Deity, the place fittest for his habitation would undoubtedly appear to be the Sun; not only the most glorious and beautiful object in the universe, but from which they were sensible of receiving the blessings of light and heat, and which experience taught them, was the source of vegetation. Divine