

the same stable majesty and beauty, the ready answer may be given now, as it was in the days of St. Peter, "where is the promise of His coming to judgment—for all things still continue as they were from the beginning of creation?"

And if it be so, it is because God is waiting in mercy, long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, in the sudden destruction of an ungodly world, but that all should come to repentance. He does not, however, leave himself without witness; and we may yet be taught in time the truth contained in the text, by many lessons written and proclaimed everywhere around us.

With respect to national greatness and prosperity we need not trace back the pages of history to learn, that it has no assurance, of perpetuity: the passing events of each day teach us the melancholy truth, how quickly peace and prosperity may wither away. And, however mighty may be the power of any existing empires in the world, there is not any one that can venture to claim a security from the universal law: save *that* kingdom which, according to the words of the prophet Daniel, the God of heaven has set up, amidst the ruins of the monarchies that once ruled the earth, which shall never be destroyed, but shall stand for ever. (*a*) Let us not then be high-minded but fear.

And with respect to individuals, that *of them* it is most true, that "all flesh is as grass, and the glory of man as the flower of grass; the grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away," —Bishop Taylor in his excellent work on "Holy Dying," tells us that in the same most sumptuous palace, 'the Escorial, where the Spanish Princes live in greatness and power, and decree war and peace, they have wisely placed a cemetery, where their ashes and their glory shall sleep till time shall be no more: and in the same place (Westminster Abbey) where our own sovereigns have been crowned, their ancestors lie interred; and they must walk over the buried dust of their forefathers to take their crown. There is a spot sown with Royal seed, the copy of the greatest change, from rich to naked, from ceiled roofs to arched coffins, from living like gods to die like men.'

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(a) Daniel ii. 44.