

—whether they had come out of Judaism or paganism, expected daily the return of the Lord, the coming of the bridegroom. It was in view of this that they had been converted. (I Thes. iv, 17. Phil. iii, 20. I Thes. i, 9, 10). Soon, as the Lord had tarried, this hope and expectation of His return had become weakened in the church; all the virgins slept. In our days the Lord has acted by His Spirit and has brought back this forgotten hope in the hearts of some. The cry has been heard—“Behold the bridegroom, go ye out to meet Him.” (Matt. xxv, 6). And many souls have rejoicingly understood, that their only expectation here below, was that of the approaching coming of the Lord according to His word—“Surely I come quickly.” (Rev. xxii, 20). Even to-day the Bridegroom may come, and who will He take? The virgins who have not only a lamp, a profession of Christianity, but who have oil in their lamps. They will enter with Him to the wedding and the door—the door of grace will be closed on the others. What a terrible position! without hope—without other expectation than the judgment; and the outer darkness—eternal separation from God, from heaven and from glory. This is thine reader if you are not saved; if you have not believed in Jesus, if you have not yet received the new life, and are not sealed by the Holy Spirit. Oh! listen to the word which invites you to come to Jesus, and “flee from the wrath to come.” Jesus has said, “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” And God repeats “Behold now is the day of salvation.”