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PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

[*Selected.*]

Mankind are certainly moving in the horizon of some great and eventful change into the centre of which all society must inevitably and speedily be carried. The world is in a strange commotion; expectation is all aroused—anticipation of something good, splendid, and unknown, is become undoubting and impatient, even to painfulness; and the time is at hand when a plentiful harvest of toil and talent must be reaped from all orders of society that may run to and fro, and knowledge be increased.

The time is certainly arrived, when the great political establishments, the powers and principalities of the world, which have created and fostered those warlike feelings and mercantile and rival interests, so hostile to the spirit of the gospel, and which have led men so far away from nature, must speedily be dissolved; and when the economy of God which shall be more in unison with the religion of his Son and with nature, shall suddenly make its appearance.

The object of this paper is to show that God has designs of high favor towards man, and will vouchsafe him an age of happiness, in which the entire sum of physical, moral and intellectual good, which can be enjoyed on earth, will be granted.

The subject is one of immense depth and extent. It involves the whole series of scripture history, and prophecy, and is as protracted as the duration of the world itself. Accordingly the reader will not expect the author of this paper to go into a detail of the subordinate parts of a subject of such plenitude and sublimity; but if the two extremes of the providential chain, with a few of the more illustrious links by which they are connected, shall be clearly pointed out, so as to furnish christians with an elementary clue to this grand topic, it is presumed the reader will be sufficiently remunerated for his trouble in reading this essay.