

" Let us reflect upon this occasion, on the vanity and transient
 " glory of this habitable world. How, by the force of one element
 " breaking loose upon the rest, all the varieties of nature, all the
 " works of art, all the labours of men, are reduced to nothing!
 " All that we admired and adored before, as great and magnifi-
 " cent, is obliterated, or vanished; and another form and face of
 " things, plain, simple, and everywhere the same, overspreads
 " the whole earth. Where are now the great empires of the
 " world, and their imperial cities; their pillars, trophies, and
 " monuments of glory? Show me where they stood, read the
 " inscription, tell me the conqueror's name. What remains, what
 " impressions, what difference or distinction do you discern in
 " the mass of fire? Rome itself, eternal Rome, the great city,
 " the empress of the world, whose domination and superstition
 " ancient and modern, make a large part of the history of this
 " earth; what is become of her now? She laid her foundations
 " deep, and her palaces were strong and sumptuous; *she glorified*
 " *herself, and lived deliciously, and said in her heart, I sit as a*
 " *queen, and shall see no sorrow.* But her hour is come, she is
 " wiped away from the face of the earth, and buried in everlasting
 " oblivion. But not cities only, and the works of men's hands—
 " the everlasting hills, the mountains and rocks are melted as wax
 " before the sun, and their place is nowhere to be found. Here
 " stood the Alps, the load of the earth, that covered many coun-
 " tries, and reached their arms from the Ocean to the Black Sea;
 " this huge mass of stone is softened and dissolved, as a tender
 " cloud into rain. Here stood the African mountains, and
 " Atlas with his top above the clouds; there was frozen Caucasus,
 " and Taurus, and Imaus, and the mountains of Asia; and
 " yonder, towards the north, stood the Riphæan hills, clothed
 " in ice and snow. All these are vanished, dropped away as the
 " snow upon their heads!—Great and marvellous are thy works,
 " Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of
 " saints!"

But, however accurate this eloquent description may be of what
 shall take place hereafter, yet when man looks around on the
 world's surface, and sees all the earth abiding year after year in