

These are the statements which our American friends have made on this subject, and which have been laid before the public. It is much to be wished that they had spoken with a little more caution. Had they merely stated that a course of events would *probably commence* about the year 1843, which would run on for twenty or thirty years afterwards: and that during this term the Son of Man might be expected to come.—1. To raise the pious dead who shall reign in his kingdom.—2. Change and take away the living who are looking for his appearing.—3. Pour the vials of divine wrath upon corrupt churches and a guilty world.—4. And after these things, to come with all his saints in flaming fire to tread the wine-press of the wrath of God, annihilate the kingdoms of the present world, and establish his own kingdom throughout the world—they would have said no more than is believed and taught by many students of prophecy in our own country. At the same time, you must remember that many judicious men object to the manner in which the chronological prophecies are understood and expounded; and discard the commonly-assumed position, that in the prophetic writings the term day usually signifies a year. But of this I may say more afterwards, and shew you, that though the chronological prophecies are the first to engage the attention of the young student, yet they are these which occasion the most perplexity and diversity of opinion.

You request me to give you an epitome of the views of such students upon this momentous subject. I feel gratified with your obliging request; and only wish that my ability to comply with it was equal to my inclination. I will do what I can, and endeavour to compress within the compass of a letter, the substance of what I have read and learned on the subject. For more ample information, I must refer you to the authors named below.

In giving a sketch of the views of students of prophecy in our own country, I shall endeavour to show—

I. That a time of universal righteousness and happiness is predicted in the Holy Scriptures.

II. That the present dispensation is not the time for this state of universal righteousness and happiness.