

8. Another sign we must point out in sadness of heart; we refer to the prevalence of gross heresy in Protestant Churches, and the increasing degradation and wickedness of large masses of people who live within hearing of the Church-going bell. Think of ministers occupying high positions in connexion with the Church of England openly advocating in their "*Essays*" the most unequivocal Infidelity! Then think of the multitudes of men of all ranks, but especially of the lowest rank, who are practically if not theoretically Infidels. Think of the debauchery, the drunkenness, the squalor, the dense ignorance that so extensively prevail. Thus light and darkness, truth and error, virtue and vice are brought into sharp contact, and the conflict between them must become more relentless every succeeding day.

9. Events are transpiring which must lead to a clearer understanding of the relation between Church and State,—the kingdom of Christ and the kingdoms of this world—than has hitherto obtained. The eyes of all the Churches are now directed to a contest waged in Scotland for the freedom of the Church of Christ as such, standing entirely separate from the civil magistrate. A lesson such as is now being taught them is greatly needed by all the Churches, but especially by the English and Scottish Establishments in which the very idea of the independent jurisdiction of the Church seems to be ignored and forgotten.

We know not when the last day shall come; but we know that the night is far spent and that we are hastening to the dawn. The day of the Lord is at hand. Let us like wise virgins be ready to meet the bridegroom. Let us work while it is called to day; let us do and dare and suffer for our Lord, and then we shall enjoy the rest that remaineth for the people of God, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on those that know not God and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of his power, when he shall come to be glorified in his saints and admired in all them that believe in that day.

BENEFICENCE.

LAST month we directed the attention of our readers to the duty of SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE. We are exceedingly anxious to keep this subject prominently before the Church, on account of its intrinsic importance as a doctrine of God's word as well as for the influence which its due appreciation must exercise on the spiritual prosperity of individual Christians and on the interests of the Church at large. There are many reasons why you should contribute systematically and liberally to the funds of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces. We will enumerate a few:—

1. You never yet gave systematically from week to week, or from month to month, as much as you could. We are aware that this is a bold assertion, and we wish we could make it with less confidence. Would that there were a thousand Christians in our church who would do for Christ *all that they could!*

2. You incur no risk by being liberal to your Divine Master. We have read a great deal, and conversed with many people, but we have never yet read or heard of any man or woman reduced to poverty or distress by giving