

verification :—“ There failed not aught of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.” (Josh. xxi. 45.)

We know not what arrangements will follow this dispensation : But we may venture to affirm that “ the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost ” will be as precious and as powerful in the experience of the saints in their final dwelling-place, as in their pilgrimage-state formerly on the earth, and that the Hallelujahs of the saved, in honour of “ the Lamb that was slain ” will be heard for ever all over the plains of heaven, to its widest extent.

VII. The general conflagration will follow. *When and how* we know not. But here is the authority :—

“ The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night ; in the which, the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat ; the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” [2 Peter iii. 10.]

Many questions might be asked ; to none of which any answer could be given in the present state of our knowledge. We might quote poetry by the bushel—but with what result ? Spiritualists and dreamers might cover reams of paper with ink—all uselessly. Darkness rests upon the prospect. All we can say is, that every thing around us is doomed to the fire

VIII. The new heaven and the new earth :

Where ? We do not know, for no sufficient clue is given. From the last two chapters of the book of Revelation we might gather that this earth is intended ; but the figurative and the literal are so mingled in those chapters that a satisfactory decision is hardly attainable. Still it must be granted that many divines have held that this world, purified by the conflagration will be the abode of the blessed ; though, how stones and earth can be purified by being burnt is difficult to be conceived ; perhaps, however, all that is meant is, that the exclusion of the wicked will itself be a purification. “ There shall in no wise enter into it [the new Jerusalem] any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie.” (Rev. xxi. 27.)

Yes—“ Thy people also shall be all righteous ” [Isa lx. 20.] No mere professors or hypocrites will be seen there. The wants, desires and habits of the redeemed host will be so different from those of earth, every thing fleshly