

of the Church, and King of nations. God is patient, because he is eternal, and because he is merciful; and the conflict may not come in our day, but it would seem to be, at some not very distant date, as much a moral necessity as the thunder-storm is a natural necessity, ere the rich showers come to refresh the thirsty earth. It is not only that anti-Christian nations deserve at the hands of God punishment meet for their hostility to Christ, but the Churches of Christ need to be aroused from their ease and half-heartedness, to be brought closer together, and closer to the Lord, ere they enter on the duties, privileges, and responsibilities of millennial times.

There is no doubt, however, as to the issue of the conflict between light and darkness. When the smoke has cleared away, and the roar of battle ceased, there will arise from the elders, from the living creatures, and from the multitude whose voice is as the sound of many waters, the triumphant shout, "Alleluia! for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth." Our

duty, in view of the solemn aspect of the times in which our lot is cast, is well expressed by Dr. Hall, of New York, in his "Questions of the Day." "Be not dismayed by opposition; be not alarmed at its long continuance. The scheme of Providence takes in all this: it has been contemplated. No strange thing happens to you or to the Church: Satan has not sprung an unexpected force against Christ. . . . Hold on, then, ye servants of the most high God. Fight your battle: defend the truth: resist the devil. You are no forlorn-hope, making a desperate stand, with no better prospect than to sell your lives as dearly as you can. You are a part of a victorious host, destined to world-wide victory and everlasting triumph. The future is all yours. Your King is mighty, and can wait, because the crown is His by right; and He has all time in which to do His will. 'Be ye therefore steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.'"

Fifteen Questions.

THAT DREAD DAY!

II.

THE CHANGES IN THE FRAME WORK OF NATURE.

"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." II Peter, iii, 10.

In pursuing our meditations on the DAY OF JUDGMENT, we come now to consider, fourth, the CHANGES THAT THEN TAKE PLACE IN THE FRAME WORK OF NATURE, as described in the above words. This old world is to be de-

stroyed, like a house on fire from cellar to garret.

There are three principal parts of every house, (1) the walls and roof; (2) the foundation; (3) the furniture.

I. WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WALLS AND ROOF?—"The heavens shall pass away with a great noise." The walls and roof of our dwelling are the lowest or cloudy heavens. There is a *spiritual* heaven, the third, that is beyond the ken of human eye or instrument. This does not belong to our system, and will not necessarily be involved in its destruction. Then there is the *starry heavens* further away than