

BEHOLD THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH.

CHAPTER I.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WORLD IN KNOWLEDGE, CIVILIZATION AND COMMERCIAL INTERCOURSE.

"At the time of the end many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." (Dan. 12: 4.) Everywhere is this sign apparent. This is an age of locomotion, navigation, exploration, discovery, invention, education, culture and society.

"The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: They shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings." (Nahum 2: 4.) This divine prediction was made more than twenty-six hundred years ago; but, like the parable of the fig tree, could not be applied or understood until the time of its fulfilment. Thousands of rapid railway trains now fly through the world day and night. Who can visit any of our great railroad centres and view the throngs of people, without contrasting the present with the past, when the stage coach was the most rapid means of travel? At the Grand Central depot in New York 165 trains arrive and leave daily.

This age of steam and rapid transit is the one in which the apocalyptic angel carries the judgment message to all