

during the last few days, we have entered upon a fresh year of this world's account. But to realize the fulness of the important truths contained in the text, and to which I have alluded, to act as if we did believe them, to use this world as if it was indeed but a thing of time, and to receive God's word, as if obedience to it were the only lasting possession, is a lesson we are all too slow to learn—and for the attainment of which we often require to be subjected to stern and severe discipline. There are some works of men that seem, when compared with others which we see around us, and when judged after the judgment of this world, to possess so grand and enduring a character, that we are apt to claim for them, in our imagination at least, some exemption from this universal law, which the Almighty has attached to all created matter: some achievements there are, which so transcend the ordinary doings of mortal men, that we can scarcely credit the glory of them to be so frail and perishable. But, except as bearing upon human character either for good or for evil, and advancing the kingdom of Christ, and forming the will of man to the obedience of Christ, it is most true, that there is no other imperishable reality, in all we see or learn or do or suffer. They all perish with the using. It is the word of God alone, and what has been done in obedience to that word that abideth for ever. Bishop Horne (so well known from his beautiful Commentary on the book of Psalms) in a sermon preached by him nearly 100 years ago, 'On the death of the old year,' says, "That day draws on apace. For not only friends die, and years expire, and we ourselves shall do the same, but the world itself approaches to its end. It likewise must die. Once already it has suffered a watery death: it is to be destroyed a second time by fire. A celebrated author, having in his writings followed it through all its changes from the creation to the consummation, describes the eruption of this fire and the progress it is to make, with the final and utter devastation to be effected by it, when all sublunary nature shall be overwhelmed and sunk into a molten deluge. In this situation of things he stands (in imagination) over the world, as if he had been the only survivor, and pronounces its funeral oration in a strain of sublimity scarce ever equalled by mere man :—