

EVENTS AND END OF TIME:

A POEM.

BY THE REV. A. H. BURWELL.

The fashion (scheme) of this world passeth away.—1 Cor. vii. 31.
Time shall be no longer.—Rev. x. 6.
Behold! I make all things new.—Rev. xxi. 5.

PART I.

A fond adieu to the retiring year!
'Tis passed away upon its swift career;
With all its sad events 'tis hurried on;
All unrecalable are past and gone.
Thus fare it with all trouble, toll, and pain!
Thus may they pass, no more to come again!

The year is gone: another comes to trace
Its little circle on Time's measured race.
The past and future linked are as they run,
Till his predestinated course is done:
For years thus linked, continuous, form the chain
Along which Time extends his dark domain,
Beginning at the point where Time began
His flight. Linked with the destinies of Man,
This flight proceeds. Years, onward as they roll,
Now by themselves can be distinct and whole;
But each involved in each, behind, before,
Till ends the chain, and Time shall be no more.
So no man by himself is ever known;
For 'tis not good that man should be alone.
And evil imitates the way designed
To be a blessing to the human kind;
For congregations of the wicked band
Themselves in league to master all the land.

The events of Time are also chains whose rise
Was in one act, man's sin in Paradise.
Their links, like man, prolific, multiply:
The last in those that follow onward fly.
The impulsive force goes on: Time yields no change.
To this; for nature runs through all the range
Of individual things, and never dies
Till Time's spent pinions beat no more the skies.
Evil events, like chaos, in a skein
Of tangle, intertangle chain with chain,
And cross and interfere with hurtful force,
And wound and injure, jostling in their course.
And thus they run till Time his finished flight
Concludes at length in everlasting night.
For He whose hand to heaven was lifted, swore
That Time is numbered, and shall be no more.
The ill events of Time shall also sink,
Engulphed beneath oblivion's leathan brink;
And none shall live as sires in sons do live,
Nor life to those that follow them shall give:
For by His word who in Himself is true,
When Time shall cease He maketh all things new.
From one event one fashion for all things,
One glorious Order for the world up springs:
And Truth and Peace shall dwell beneath the skies.
That which is perfect shall be brought to light
By Him the Man of counsel and of might.
Embondaged nature then shall all be free,
Now send to heaven the wall of misery.

Adam begat a son (so God designed)
In his own likeness, after his own kind,—
Adam the fal'en. Thus fall by propagation
Descends to each succeeding generation.
Corruption passes onward; death doth spread
His gloomy shroud o'er all, for all are dead;
All, all, since then, do breathe but mortal breath,
And all are equal in the common death.
The murderer Cain, with hate and fury blind,
Was first-born of our fallen, degraded kind;
And Abel's death was witness down how low
Man's heart had sunk which could devise that blow.
His thoughts were evil only, only sin
In word and deed, the outcome from within.

Actions produce events. The acts of man,
And their events, in nature's channels ran,
And ran corrupt. The tree of needs must suit
Its offspring to its power of yielding fruit:
The tree corrupt and bad, where then should be
The living proof of the uncorrupted tree?
Corruption, wickedness, the world o'er-spread—
Dead beings, thoughts, and works; for all were dead:
And hence the cry of violence and spoil
God heard ascending from this field of toil.
He heard the cry: for vengeance he descended,
And dealt the blow which o'er the world impended.

'Twas thus this evil scheme of things began.
Its first foundation was the sin of man.
The bad devices of man's erring heart,
As Time developed them, each took its part:
Ambition, envy, covetous desires,
Wrath, strife, and lust, enkindled all their fires.
The weak submitted to the harsh decrees
The strong imposed—for they alone were free
To act their pleasure; as the lion's paw
Gives the sole sanction to the lion's law.
But weakness called up cunning to his aid,
(By devilish wisdom thrives the serpent's trade),
And craft and art succeeded, till at length
The secret dagger grappled outward strength.

'Twas thus the law of flesh, by sin entailed,
O'er all the family of man prevailed,
With small exception; while beneath God's eye
The ripening wickedness of man rose high;
Till wearied patience forth in vengeance broke,
And living nature sunk beneath the stroke.

But eight were spared (such grace their faith rewarded,
For they God's truth and warning voice regarded,
And they alone.) The earth, re-peopled, saw
Man's quick return to rebel nature's law;
And Babel grew a tower to reach to heaven:
But from their impious purpose they were driven.
God saw their work: their tongues he did divide,