



OF THE

## Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—PSALM 137, v. 8.

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### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### The Time of the End.

Such is part of the title of a work recently issued from the American press, by one who writes under the signature of "A Congregationalist;" and the reader will observe that it is a different production from a work bearing a somewhat similar name, which was lately noticed in our paper, viz: "The End," by Dr. Cumming. Only a few months have elapsed since its publication in Boston, and it already seems to be very popular. It has a pretty long title, which we quote at length, as showing its character and object,—*"The Time of the End;"* prophetic period, developing, as predicted, the increase of knowledge, respecting the prophecies and Periods that foretell the End: illustrated by the History of Prophetic interpretation, the expectation of the Church, and the various computations of the Ages of Daniel and John, by commentators, who generally terminate them between A. D. 1800 and 1880; also, "our present position in the Prophetic calendar," with his Apocalyptic seven sealed scroll," by the Rev. E. B. Elliot, A. M.; "Lectures on the near and nearness of the Advent, by the Rev. John Cumming, D. D.; Lectures on the new Heavens and the new Earth, by Dr. Palmers, Dr. Hitchcock and John Wesley, and the testimony of more than one hundred witnesses, against the modern Whittyan theory, of a Millenium before the Advent." The last few years have been peculiarly prolific in works upon prophecy, which is now attracting a great deal of attention, and whatever may be the objections of some to the study of it, and the danger of conjectures, we think that, within certain limits, every intelligent Christian is bound to give it a share of his attention. Here, of course, we allude to *unfulfilled* prophecy, as that which is already clearly fulfilled, is supposed to have come under the notice of every intelligent Christian as a branch of his

Declaration, that "All Scripture is profitable;" and that it is the duty of teachers thus implying that no part of the Bible is to be overlooked or forgotten, either by ministers or people. But besides, let us consider the *bulk* of the prophetic books, forming one half or more of the sacred volume, and we shall have good reason to conclude that the subject is of very great importance, and one with which all who believe that the Scriptures were given to be understood and not to mystify us, will strive to gain a competent acquaintance. Not by any means that it is expected of every Christian to possess a nice critical skill in those matters, but such general knowledge, at least, as will be useful and profitable to him in the reading of the Bible, and in guarding him against those very delusions which ignorance on such points is sure to produce, and which in these stirring times, will make him an easy prey to religious quackery and fanaticism, various instances of which will readily occur to our readers. Again, in times of trouble and persecution, the Church of Christ has obtained important benefit from *unfulfilled* prophecy, by the comfort derived from the hope which it inspires; which is, indeed, one very important use and intent of it.—

The hope derived from prophecy of things to come, has inspired many a martyr cheerfully to lay down his life in behalf of the truth, and to submit to the severest trials, both of mind and body. And besides all this, any man who has a sincere desire for the good of Christ's Church, cannot fail to enquire anxiously, so far as the study of God's word can teach him, or rather so far as his knowledge of it shall enable him, concerning her future expectations and destinies. While many professing Christians devote so much time and display such interest in speculating on matters of passing concern—the progress, for instance, of political reform, or the success of some paltry measure—it surely may be permitted to the sincere followers of Jesus Christ to derive practical encour-

agement and hope, and edification, by glancing now and again at the glorious prospects "to declare the *whole Counsel of God*," held out to them in the future, through the medium of the inspired record, which both invites them to the duty, and promises a blessing upon all who comply with it. To say that on such subjects men are peculiarly liable to be led astray, is only to assert what is true of every part of religion, the various doctrines of which have been so often perverted and misapplied.

With those views, we feel justified in bringing the present volume under the notice of our readers. The object of it may be best explained in the author's own words. "The design of this work," he says, "is not to bestow censure on the well-meant endeavours of mistaken expositors; but it is to awaken new interest in the predictions of the future, respecting which there exists in the Church, a remarkable and alarming indifference, that is hardly reconcilable with the love for Christ's return, which the Scriptures inculcate. If the position here maintained be correct,—viz.: that "The Time of the End" is a period to precede the End, during which prophecies previously obscure or misinterpreted were to be unsealed for the edification of the Church, the knowledge of which, respecting the close of the present and the ushering in of a new dispensation, was to be gradually but surely increased,—then it can hardly be doubted that we are within this predicted period, and hence the importance of awakening the Church to a realizing sense of her true position, which should be like that of a bride awaiting the return of her absent but soon-expected spouse. In aid of this object, there is here given a condensed view of the history of prophetic interpretation, the erroneous expectations which have prevailed, the various computations of the prophetic periods which have attracted the attention of a considerable portion of the Church, and valuable selections from the writings of divines, and others, whose opinions are worthy of consideration. There is thus presented, in a small