

against what they saw and knew, have helped to tear away the drapery which the succession of Popes succeeded in wrapping about themselves, and which for centuries deceived almost the very elect. The great "Apostasy" has taken place. St. Paul's "man of sin," the great Antichrist, the one "whose coming was according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" has already come; and he has assuredly been sufficiently *revealed, uncovered*, to prevent us from looking for a second one to arise in the future. And furthermore, the human race has advanced so far in the realm of knowledge, and the individual become so fully enfranchised, and so thoroughly self-conscious, and the civil power become so dominant, that no religious monomania could ever again unite and lead the people of the Latin nations into any kind of a frenzied crusade against any other race or religious body whatsoever. Even Satan himself, incarnated in human flesh, as some strangely imagine the great Antichrist will be, could not stampede Europe again. What the Papacy once did in the West, and Mohammed in the East, cannot be repeated. I am sure there is no Antichrist yet to arise. Those dreadful days are past; so are the wars, nation rising against nation, the famines, plagues and earthquakes in divers places, mentioned as incidents and events that would take place during the whole span of the Gospel age; but none of these are included in or form a part of "the time of trouble" which comes at the end of our age and which has undoubtedly already begun.

How IS OUR AGE TO CLOSE?—From many passages we are told that the Gospel age, the Gentile age, instead of drifting into a millennium of peace through the preaching of the Gospel, is to close in a storm. Following that vivid picture in Daniel (11:44, 45), of the utter collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the Mohammedan "little horn," the very next verse reads, "and at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, even to that same time; and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written