

# The Monthly Advocate.

VOL. II.

DECEMBER, 1881.

No. 8.

## THE LAST TIMES.

BY THE REV. J. C. K. MILLIGAN, NEW YORK.

The Bible commends the study of its prophetic revelations and the watchful observance of the providential events that prepare the way for their fulfillment. The children of Issachar are praised because they "had understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do." Christ rebuked others: "O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky, but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" In the Revelation Jesus declares: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein for the time is at hand." Paul says "that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night" to the men of the world who ignorantly disregard the signs of its coming: "but ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." Let us watch and be sober as the children of light; for Jesus said to his disciples: "I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." His revelations in regard to the last times are especially full and clear in Ezekiel chapters xxxvi and xxxvii; Matt. xxiv; Luke xxi; Rom. xi; 2 Thess. i and ii; 2 Tim. iii. These Scriptures should be carefully read by every observer of the times. They contain among other minor signs, those chief indications of the near approach of the end:

I. *The universal spread of the Gospel*, Matt. xxiv 14. The Gospel is even now within the reach of most of the inhabitants of the earth.

II. *Alarming portents*, Luke xxi 25-28; Joel ii 30, 31. This year 1881 has been a remarkable year in some of these respects. The *New York Tribune* calls it "a most phenomenal year." It mentions the earthquakes at Chios and elsewhere, comets, the singular atmospheric demonstrations in New England, the remarkable and infrequent mirage seen off the Jersey coast, and the intense heat and extensive and extended drought in this country. It adds: "It has been marked equally by destructive floods, winds and fires in every part of the globe, resulting in the loss of many lives and waste of much property. Even the crimes of the year have been startling in their number and character, ranging from the assassination of two rulers to the detection of a fifteen or twenty times bigamist." The agony of prayer which for eighty days was offered up in vain for the life of President Garfield, and the universal mourning and grief for his timely end; the state of Russia horrified at the murder of the Czar, and the constant dread of death which haunts his son; England with Irish, Afghanistan, and South African troubles, are certainly not small beginnings of "distress of nations with perplexity." But