

sive rapidity in the career of conquest. But the primitive convert who indulged this pleasing speculation, could he return from the grave, would behold with surprise and mortification the disappointment of his fairest hopes. It is, indeed, a distressing reflection, that, after the lapse of so many centuries, the influence of our blessed Religion is still so feebly and imperfectly felt in the most extensive and populous regions of the ancient world; that, while the ends of the earth have yielded their treasures and territory to the avarice or ambition of Europe, they have not received in exchange the inestimable truths of the Gospel; that the nations of the East, while they bow in passive submission to the power of Christians, reject the yoke of Christ. Yet nothing, on examination, will be found in the present state of Religion in the world, which is not perfectly consistent with the language of ancient Prophecy, and the promises of our blessed Lord.

The varied predictions of the Old and New Testament coincide in describing a series of conflicts between the gross superstitions and corrupt affections of mankind, on the one hand, and the pure religion of Christ, on the other, till the
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