

SERMON.

1 Peter, 1 ch. 24, 25.—For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.

These words of the Apostle are almost an exact quotation from the 40th chapter of Isaiah, where the prophet, at the command of the Lord, describes the promulgation of the Gospel and the voice of its forerunner: "All flesh is grass, and the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth, because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever." Such is the judgment—the description given in the Scriptures. In the Wisdom of Solomon we have the same declaration respecting the fleeting nature of all that appertaineth to man in this world: and how vain it is to place any confidence in them: "What hath pride profited us, (he asks) or what good hath riches with our vaunting brought us? All those things are passed away like a shadow, and as a post that hasteth by (and having further compared them to the swift passage of a ship over the waters, a bird or an arrow through the air, the traces of which are lost as soon as made) even so we in like manner (he continues) as soon as we were born began to draw to our end." * And when that comes, what have we to show?

That time passes onward is a truth we all acknowledge: and

* Ch. v. 8-13.