

SERMON.

DANIEL xii. 4, 10.

BUT THOU, OH DANIEL, SHUT UP THE WORDS AND SEAL THE BOOK, EVEN TO THE TIME OF THE END; MANY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO, AND KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE INCREASED. MANY SHALL BE PURIFIED AND MADE WHITE, AND TRIED; BUT THE WICKED SHALL DO WICKEDLY; AND NONE OF THE WICKED SHALL UNDERSTAND; BUT THE WISE SHALL UNDERSTAND.

OUR blessed Lord once addressed the Pharisees and Sadducees, in a way of keen reproof for their criminal inattention to events which were manifestly fulfilling most important prophecies, in the following language; "When it is evening, ye say, it will be fair weather; for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to-day; for the sky is red and lowering. Oh ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky, but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" Daniel's seventy weeks* were then nearly completed. The sceptre was departing from Judah; Elias had already come in the person of John Baptist, as the forerunner of the Messiah; the numerous prophecies relating to his

* Dan. ix. 24.