

THE MONTHLY RECORD,

—OF THE—

Church of Scotland

—IN—

NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK AND ADJOINING PROVINCES.

VOLUME XXVI.

DECEMBER, 1881.

NUMBER XII.

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning."—Psalm 137, 4-5.

THE END OF ALL THINGS.

For the End of the Year.

"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."—1 PETER iv. 7.

A phrase like "the end of all things" takes its meaning from the context. If the writer were speaking of the Jewish State, or of the Temple and its worship, or of the coming destruction of Jerusalem, the phrase might very well be supposed to refer to any of these things. But the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the Jewish State, stupendous events as they no doubt were, do not exhaust the meaning, or furnish ground enough for the solemnity of this passage. It refers to universal experience. We are always to be dying, until there is no more sin left to die out of; and always rising and living afresh while higher and heavenlier are above us still. We are to be crucified with Christ; to be raised with Christ. To disown the "lusts of men;" to live according "to the will of God." The whole evil past is condemned, renounced, forsaken: the present and the future, called "the rest" or remainder of our time here on earth, is given to God—to God who, in the person of Christ, stands ready to "judge the quick and the dead," all who have died and all who are living. The time of this judgment, says the apostle, will soon be: the end of all things is at hand. "Excesses," "revellings," "banquetting," "idolatries," passion, and pleasure, and pomp, and power, and "all that beauty, and all that wealth ere gave," "await alike the inevitable hour," "The path of glory leads but to the grave." "The fashion of this world passeth away." The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober and watch unto prayer.

2. Nor, again, is it the death of the individual believers to whom he was writing which can explain the im-