

12 DEEPENING SHADOWS AND COMING GLORIES.

turies of His absence, the consummation of all sacred hopes, the last thought and wish which the soul is capable of flinging into the future, the ending of all times, the yearnings of all martyrs, the fond anticipations of the whole Church of God, living or dead, are all summed up in that universal, that solemn prayer, ‘ Thy kingdom come: come, Lord Jesus.’ ”

“ Who that has ever looked carefully into the subject, but has been struck with the towering prominence which the Scriptures everywhere assign to the coming again of the Lord Jesus? The New Testament has more references to this particular topic than it has pages. Of all the seven or eight thousand verses of which it is composed, one out of every twenty-five points forward with eager gesture to the appearing again of the Lord Jesus. Again and again it is set forth as the great hope of the Church. There is not a Christian grace or virtue for the enforcement of which appeal is not made to it. Nor is there another subject upon which more stress is laid in all the Word of God. To many, indeed, it is anything but welcome. There be even professing Christians who would rather not hear about it, and who, if they could have their way, would erase it from the creed, and silence all preaching concerning it. But the religion of such is much aside from the Scriptures, and occasion is urgent for them to bestir themselves to re-examine and relay their founda-