

BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST IN ITS APPLICATION TO THE WORLD'S FAIR.*

(Read 5th Chapter of Daniel.)

While Jeremiah was left at Jerusalem to witness the course of moral corruption there, and to warn of coming judgments, and while Ezekiel was among the remnant in the place of discipline or of righteousness on the river Chebar, Daniel is set among the Gentiles, even at Babylon, to learn the history and the ways of the Gentile, or the world.

We may see this in his first six chapters, which constitute the first part of the book. In chapter i. we see the Gentile, or the world, set up. Then in chapter ii. we get the same system, the world, in its political career onward to the kingdom, figured in the great image, seen in all its parts, from its head of gold to its toes of clay-iron; and judged in the appointed hour, by the Stone which becomes a Mountain, to occupy the scene of power all the world over with an untransferable kingdom. Then in the four following chapters, the stories of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and Darius give us the moral course of the world. In Nebuchadnezzar we get a persecuting power, connected with human religion or idolatry. The king sets up an image and

* This paper was written some years ago in connection with "The Great Exhibition." The principles referred to, and the truth brought out are, however, applicable to all similar occasions. Therefore the title, "The World's Fair," is substituted for "The Great Exhibition."