

PREACHING THE COMING SAVIOUR,

BEST ADAPTED TO OUR CONSTITUTION.

I wonder that our popular divines remain so blind to the philosophy of human nature, as they manifestly do, in expecting so much from the annunciation of *Death*. Is it not a fact daily witnessed, that men brave death from considerations in themselves of very small moment? Not only in the field of battle, but in the field of honour, men brave death, rather than submit to the most trifling insult from their fellows. On the other hand, is there a man on earth who would be found brave and fearless, were he to see an appearance from the world of *spirits*—the departed spirit of a *friend*, or an angel of light? In announcing, therefore, the Coming of the Lord with ten thousand of his saints, which the Apostles so frequently do, and our modern preachers so rarely, we of the literal school do touch a string of the human heart, which will be found to vibrate with deeper tones than any which can arise from the consideration of death. Accordingly, it is, I believe, a fact, that wherever this doctrine is preached with any degree of comprehension of its Scriptural bearings, though it at first shocks all the preconceptions and prejudices of our congregations, yet at length, the common people, who are the repositories of so much of the plain common sense of human nature, more valuable by far than the learning of our schools of theology, receive it gladly, and find it to be food for their souls. The saints of God count it as the pearl of great price, and would not part with it were the whole world offered in exchange.—*Wm. Cunningham.*

 EXPOSITION OF THE PROPHECY OF PETER,
 CONCERNING THE DAY OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING.

2 Peter iii. 1, 2. Peter exhorts the believing Jews, unto whom he writes, to be mindful of the words of the holy prophets, Isaiah, Daniel, and Malachi, concerning the Coming of Christ to Judgment, and the restoration then promised; it being also confirmed by the apostles of our Lord and Saviour.

Ver. 3, 4. For howsoever it were then believed both by Jews, and Christianized Gentiles, yet in the last days should come those, who, walking after their own desires, (or humours,) should deny, or deride the expectation of any such promise of the day of Christ, saying, Where is the promise of his coming? Where is the new heaven and the new earth you talk of?

Ver. 4. The reason of this their unbelief, being, because they imagine there hath never yet since the creation of the world,