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"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—Ps. 137, 5. r.

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### Sermon,

By the Rev. William Snodgrass, of St. Paul's Church, Montreal.

"But this I say, brethren, the time is short."—1st Cor. vii. 29.

I am aware that a correct critical exposition of these words would show that the Apostle is speaking of a particular season, the remaining portion of all time, not of time as a whole, and that he characterises it as being of short duration, soon to be wound up or completed. In other words he refers to the existing dispensation or present condition of things, and I have no doubt whatever that, were we to adhere strictly to the thought uppermost in his mind when he penned these words, we should consider the shortness of the time in view of the Lord's return to reign by his personal and immediate presence over the company of his ransomed subjects—the final and glorious consummation of this world's history, when the Lord shall gather all his saints together unto himself, when all preparatory stages, epochs, and events shall be at an end, and time itself shall be no more. This is a prospect which ought to have a solemnizing influence upon all our plans and arrangements, which should make us careful to sit loose to all earthly objects and enjoyments,

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and prevent us from imagining that there is anything permanently profitable in the formation of mere temporal connections, but which, on the contrary, should convince us of the exceeding hurtfulness of a constant, excessive devotion to worldly pursuits. They who look forward to the appearing of their Lord and Saviour to be glorified in the assembling of his saints should not entangle themselves with the affairs of this life, but rather seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness, set their affections on things which are above, lay up treasure in the heavens, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where no thief approacheth to break through and steal.

Upon this broad, interesting, and solemn truth I do not, however, at present propose to dwell. There is a more circumscribed, but yet a perfectly legitimate, application of the Apostle's words, to which I mean to advert exclusively. In the view already indicated, we are all directly and personally concerned. We cannot possibly disconnect ourselves from our Lord's return. That is an event which will one day give a character and intensity to our individual experiences, of which at present we have a very faint and dull conception. But, admitting the correctness of the Apostle's representation of the shortness of the time that remains until its occurrence, we