

The prophecy finds its realization in the fact that places of public amusement obtain their support largely, if not mainly, from professed Christians; so largely, indeed, that when the "Lenten" season comes round, these places are forced, during the forty days in which such Christians suspend their campaign of worldliness, to cater to them, in some instances, by substituting for the theatrical or operatic performance, lectures, readings or plays that have in them some fancied approach to Christian maxims and principles. Indeed, were it not for the Christian public, it may well be doubted whether the amusement season could be maintained at all, the richest and most liberal patrons being oftentimes the leading supporters of the church. In exact proportion as spirituality declines, ritualism increases. What the church lacks in power it makes up in form; and of many Christians and churches concerning their attitude to the Holy Ghost, who is the alone power of religion, it might not be inaptly said, as it is written of certain professed Christians in the days of the apostles, that they "have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost."

The doctrinal and spiritual departure of the church, therefore, is a sign of the times, fulfilled and fulfilling.

It was foretold that during the absence of the Lord and, especially, as the Christian age should draw to its close, many false teachers