

respectable Scotch emigrant in Prince Edward's Island, whose house was suddenly caught by one of those dreadful visitations, and two interesting daughters were burnt alive, before their father, who escaped, could warn them of their danger.

It is impossible to dwell upon such scenes without the thought being suggested to the mind of that last conflagration which is to destroy the world (and thereby, perhaps, to usher in a new heaven and a new earth), even as the old world was destroyed by water. This fact in the future history of our world is very clearly revealed: "The world that then was, being overflowed by water, perished; but the heavens and the earth *which are now*, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." And again, "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; *the earth also, and the works that are therein, shall be burnt up!*" Many people scoff at this. The coming fire is disbelieved now, as much as the coming flood was disbelieved in the days of Noah; and so St. Peter foretold when he said, "There shall come *scoffers* in the last days, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming?" or "Where is His promised coming?" But God kept His word to the old world, and all perished save one family. And equally certain is it, that "the heavens and the earth, *by the same word*, are kept in store for the perdition of ungodly men." It is true, that centuries may pass without any signs of so awful a judgment, and unbelievers begin to think that God "hath forgotten." But "a day with the Lord is as a thousand years!" and "the Lord is *not* slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is *long-suffering* to us-ward, *not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance!*" Let us take advantage of our Lord's goodness! If we repent not, it shall be with us as with the old world,—“we shall all likewise perish.” How dreadful is a house on fire!—but we may escape to the house of a neighbour. How dreadful is a city on fire!—but we may flee from it to the mountains, and be safe. How dreadful is a whole country on fire!—but some river, or the ocean, may afford a place of safety. But a *world* on fire! the elements melting with fervent heat! the earth and the works therein burned up!—whither shall the impenitent and unbelieving fly? To God? Hear, O sinner, His warnings in time!—"When your fear cometh as a desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you; then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: for that they *hated* knowledge, and did not *choose* the fear of the Lord: they *would* none of my counsel; they *despised* all my reproof; *therefore* they shall eat the fruit of their *own* way, and be filled with their own devices!" (Prov. i. 27-31.) Shall they fly to Jesus? He also tells them what must be His sentence: "I know you not; depart from me, ye that work iniquity!"

There can be no hope for the impenitent *then*, but there is hope *now*. "Now is the accepted time, *now is the day of salvation.*" "To-day, if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts!" Beware of giving your hearts to what cannot last or be your life, when time shall be no more. What can "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, or the pride of life," do for you on that day? But, seeing all *these* things are to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be *in all holy conversation and godliness?*" Yet those who know and love Jesus may rejoice. "The world," indeed, "passes away, and the lust thereof." Let it pass; who will mourn over its funeral pile? But all that is worth keeping will be preserved. "He who does the will of God abideth for ever!" While this world is kept in store for the perdition of the ungodly, a better world is reserved for the godly: "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." Wherefore, believer, "seeing that ye look for *such* things, be diligent, that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless; and account that the long-suffering of our God is salvation!" And again, "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake