

it cannot be long delayed, with all the Israel of God we will wait until he does come. \* \* \* \*

The concurrent evidence of the nearness of the advent is very strong. In all of the great consecutive prophecies the grand event just before us is the return of our Lord. In the metallic symbol of Daniel ii, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome are in the past. We are in the clay and the iron state, the democratic-monarchic mixture, just previous to the establishment of the Kingdom of God. If we look at the 7th of Daniel the four great empires are in the past, the papacy has had its dominion and lost it, and what next? "The kingdom and dominion and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heavens, shall be given to the people of the saints." The 8th of Daniel shows the same exhausted condition of the prophecy; while in Daniel xi, all is fulfilled except the going forth of Turkey and the standing up of Michael. Turkey has been the sick man of Europe for years, and statesmen tell us that the transfer of the Ottoman government to the shores of Asia and the settlement of the eastern question cannot long be deferred. Then the advent and the resurrection. So Luther taught, and so eminent commentators have believed. In our Lord's great prophecy we have passed the great tribulation, the darkening of the sun, the falling of the stars, and for many years now have witnessed the distress of nations with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring, etc. The two predicted classes are prominent in the church, many giving "meat in due season," and proclaiming the advent near, while others say: "My Lord delayeth his coming" (Matt. xxiv, 45-51.) Without entering into details, the Book of Revelation clearly indicates the same proximity to the end, and the social, moral, religious, physical and political signs of the time are thrillingly significant.

The foregoing views of Elder Burch are here reproduced, not necessarily by way of endorsement, but as a matter of interest to our readers. We have expunged from his exposition his mathematical calculations, based upon prophetic numbers and symbols and certain events of history, because they were too hypothetical to be of any value; and we will here observe that, in the last paragraph quoted from him, he commits an error in saying that "we have passed the great tribulation, the darkening of the sun, and the falling of the stars." We have not yet passed these things; they are still in the future.

The Boston *Herald*, which publishes the matter from which the above extracts are taken, declares:

It is not the Adventists alone who feel the present pregnant with this im-

portant event. Evangelist Moody is quoted as saying: "No one can read the prophecies of scripture with their eyes open and fail to perceive that the second coming of Christ is near at hand." Rev. A. J. Gordon, of this city, says: "The majority of the Jews had no idea of the nearness of Christ's first coming when it occurred. Only a few eyes recognized his star in the east when it appeared. Only a few out of the great throng of Hebrew worshippers had any apprehension of the wondrous event that was occurring. And Christ gives us intimation after intimation that it will be precisely so with His second advent—that comparatively few will be looking for it; that the great mass will be astonished and overwhelmed by its suddenness." And this is how Rev. Mr. Talmage speaks on the subject: "There may be many years of hard work yet before the consummation, but the signs are to me so encouraging that I would not be unbelieving if I saw the wing of the apocalyptic angel spread for its last triumphal fight in this day's sunset; or, if tomorrow morning the ocean cable should thrill us with the news that Christ the Lord had alighted on Mount Olivet or Mount Calvary to proclaim universal dominion."

There will be an extended suspicion that Dr. Talmage speaks upon this subject as he does more from a desire to say something sensational, than from a literal and genuine faith in the near approach of the event to which he so graphically refers. Were he as well versed in Scripture as his profession requires, he would know that no telegraphic message would be necessary to carry around the whole earth the news of Christ's coming; "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, so shall the coming of the Son of man be."

The *Christian Witness* says:

"Nearly 50 years ago, William Miller called the special attention of the Christian world to the prophecies of the Bible bearing on the close of this dispensation. He succeeded in convincing a large number of the most devoted people that the end of the world was comparatively near. During the past 50 years Christian scholars have reviewed Mr. Miller's argument with patient and prayerful earnestness. Some of the minor details of his teaching time and research have proved to be erroneous, but in the church, among pious people, opposition to Mr. Miller's principal points has substantially ceased. A multitude of learned men, especially among evangelists and missionaries, are loving believers in the soon coming of their dear Lord to judge the world, raise the dead, and set up his everlasting kingdom."

The number of people who hold to the main features of the Adventist faith in the United States, and are embraced in that body, is given as not less than 200,000, while if the *Christian Witness* is to be credited, a belief in the near and literal coming of the Savior is fast spreading in various denominations. But such a faith will avail little if unaccompanied by works corresponding with it.

With all the diligence shown by the Adventists in searching the Scriptures for data on which to base an estimate of the time when the Savior will come in power and glory, it seems strange that they should overlook certain events which must, according to the explicit declarations of Holy Writ, take place before the Redeemer's second advent. The last two verses of the Old Testament tell who must come and what he must do "before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." Elijah was appointed to appear and "turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to the fathers." This has happened, that Prophet having appeared to Joseph Smith in the Kirtland Temple, and bestowed upon the latter special keys and powers connected with the work of God. But the gathering of the Jews to Jerusalem; at least a partial rebuilding of that ancient capital by them; the appearance, martyrdom and bringing to life again in that city of three prophets or witnesses to be raised up to the Jews; the siege of the city by Gentile enemies, and the consequent distress of its inhabitants, are events yet to transpire before the Savior comes in the manner foretold by Himself, Zachariah, and other sacred writers.

The signs that the end is near multiply in number and increase in significance; but much remains to be accomplished before that which they portend will transpire. Though the work to be done is great, it does not follow that the time it will occupy will be long; for the Father is working rapidly at the present time, and events preparatory to the advent and reign of His Son are succeeding each other so quick, that men scarcely perceive or sense.

#### DESECRATING A GRAVE.

A FEW days ago persons who were attending a burial in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, near Concord, Mass., in which were interred the