PREMILLENIALISM A DELUSION. BY A MEMBER OF THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND

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W. M. WHITE

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BY A

MEMBER OF THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

'Εάο τος όμως είτη' 13ού, 23ε ό Χρονός, ξ. 23ε' μη πιστεύσητε.
— ΜΑΤΤ. ΧΧΙΝ. 23.
Τοῦνο γενόσποντες, δει πάσα προφητεία γραφής, idias Ιπιλύσιως οὐ γένοναι.
— 2 Per. 1. 20.

JOHNSTONE AND HUNTER, EDINBURGH AND LONDON.

M.DCCC.LI.

TO THE

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND, This Essay,

WHICH WAS PRESCRIBED AS A PRESBYTERIAL EXERCISE

TO ONE OF THEIR YOUNGER MEMBERS,

IS DEDICATED,

WITH

APPROTION AND RESPECT.

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ESSAY ON THE PREMILLENNIAL ADVENT.

PART I.

THE PHILOSOPHICAL ARGUMENT.

It can be made very clear, from the Word of God, that the Antichristian system at present in the world is Popery, and that it is to be destroyed. Does that Word contain hints that a further development of error shall take place after the Papacy has been cast down, suggesting at the same time what its nature shall be? If so, can we form any proper notion of the system, so as to reason from its nature to the mode of its destruction, and by a comparison of it with Popery, see cause to conclude that its downfal shall be accomplished in an entirely different way? And, in connection with the Word, are there any facts or principles upon which a generalization may be formed to arrive at the same result, or at least to throw light and explanation upon the statements which are to be found in that Book of God? And, in pursuing such an investigation, if it be found that a sound generalization of many facts and principles lead to the opinion that there shall be such a system, and if it be found that its nature is such as that its annihilation can only be accomplished by the Second Advent-according to the constant method of the divine government—shall we not have the aid of philosophy, so far as it goes, to counteract (1.) the theory of the Premillennial Advent; and (2.) the idea that a "Cæsarianism," or concentrated civil Papacy, shall arise while Romanism is still in existence? We propose to pursue this investigation for a little, specially to catch the light it may shed on the subject of this essay.

"He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit," is a formula that more than aught else declares the nature of the Christian life and the beauty of the Christian religion. The result of it is a oneness of will, and entire self-dedication to the Lord, which appear in all relations, places, and circumstances. This is the ideal of the Christian life; so much so, as that he is no true Christian who does not desire it, and aim after it as the great business of his life.

To produce similar phenomena, with the Lord Jesus Christ excluded and superseded, is the masterpiece of satanic ingenuity and crime. The wicked one has been labouring for the last eighteen centuries to bring the Christian world into this entire subjection of mind, will, and conduct to a creature of his own. He has attempted, and that not ill, to counterpart the mechanism of God's highest scheme of love to man, and to produce thereby vice, and misery, and wo,—a misery which does not cease with an abode in this world.

There are two ways in which this great work of Satan might be elaborated. We could suppose him contriving that a visible spiritual head shall obtain such mastery over the Christian world, as to bend every man, in will and action, into a conformity with an arbitrary dictation; and this under a system which shall be enforced by spiritual and temporal penalties. Or, we