

# THE BELIEVER'S POCKET COMPANION.



## CHAPTER I.

### PUTTING ON CHRIST, THE ONE THING NEEDFUL.

THERE never was a time, perhaps, in which the truths of the gospel, and the glorious doctrines of grace, were treated with so much obloquy, contempt and ridicule, as in the present day.\* For this, we may justly dread the most sore judgments to be speedily executed upon this sinful land. Yet, this is a day, in which the Lord is sending forth many laborers into his vineyard, who preach the everlasting gospel with great clearness, power, and faithfulness. And the Lord causes this gospel to have free course, to run and be glorified, gathering in multitudes of precious souls to Christ, to whom he gives to live in the rich experience, and walk in the sweet enjoyments of his pardoning love, justifying grace, comforting peace, and sanctifying influence. This is a most joy-

\* This was written in 1773.

## A D M O N I T I O N

T O T H E

P E O P L E O F A L L C O U N T R I E S ,

*Ec. Ec.*

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SINCE writing my first book, irreligion, infidelity, and wickedness, which are so predominant, and so consummately the prominent features of the present period, are verging every hour more rapid, and taking wider strides to their ultimate, awful, and tremendous completion. The rage of the times, are scepticism and sedition, strife and licentiousness; which are enlarging enormously, the breaches of infidelity, and completely opening up the dreadful gulf of irreligion. Such egregious wickedness, and deplorable transgression, are ensnaring all mankind, and precipitating them into the irretrievable labyrinths of error and unbelief, and the consequent inevitable paths of ruin, death and destruction.

The pious few, and the thinly scattered righteous, no doubt view these melancholy facts, and lamentable truths, with sorrow and regret. But as such are the tokens and signs for them to perceive,

The present situation of the world, resembles the days of Lot ; and this also establishes that our Saviour's second coming is at hand. Luke xvii. 28. " For

The luxury and ambition of the present period, are enormous ; and the infidelity and wickedness thereof are exceedingly great. Consummately then does it resemble the days of Noah before the flood, Genesis vi. 5. " God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart were only evil continually.

And the sin and iniquity of Sodom were also so very great, that there were not ten righteous persons therein, so as it might be saved. At the present moment, the righteous in the earth, comparatively speaking, are but a drop to the ocean. Such an extensive and enormous comparison, is logically conformable to the import of our Saviour's own words. Luke xviii. 8. *“Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh shall he find faith upon the earth..”* The very few that do believe in our Saviour's second coming,

Nothing characterises the present day, more than an universal scoffing at every thing which refers to, or partakes of religion. Atheism and Deism &c. do not only prevail, but in fact, are openly avowed and professed. Job xxi. 14. *“ Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us ; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.*

Man's "progress," of which he loudly boasts, is a delusion. There is indeed a constant advance in mechanical inventions, and in all that contributes to a grossly materialistic industrialism. But that apparent progress serves but to hide the real facts from the many, who look only at the surface of things. In reality the civilized nations are on the down grade. Crime, insanity and suicides increase at an appalling rate. Everywhere the spirit of violence and lawlessness is rampant. In commercial life, political life and private life corruption increases and abounds.

The noted scientist, A. R. Wallace, who put forth the theory of Evolution contemporaneously with Darwin, said, shortly before his death in his ninety-first year:

"I have come to the general conclusion that there has been no advance either in intellect or morals since the days of the earliest Egyptians. *Everything is as bad as it possibly can be.* There exist in our midst horrors and dreadful diseases never known before. Our whole social environment is rotten, full of vice and everything that is bad."

Had Mr. Wallace lived to see the conditions in the world resulting from the great European War he would have had to admit that things could be *even worse than they were then.*