

THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Sunday's Services—An Interesting Discourse on the Eastern Question.

In the forenoon Elder U. Smith of Michigan spoke on the solution of the Eastern question, in the light of prophecy. He took for his text, Daniel 12 1, 2—"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people, and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even in that same time, and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

Michael was explained to be Christ, and his standing up, the act of his taking his throne and commencing his everlasting reign. This takes place in connection with the second coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the end of all earthly scenes. The connection between this important prophecy and the Eastern question was shown by a brief exposition of the last ten verses of the previous chapter. Beginning with verse 35 of Daniel 11 it was shown that the period of papal supremacy was brought to view in that verse, from A. D. 538 to A. D. 1798. The four following verses bring to view another power which, as a nation, would make a profession of atheism. France did this in the great French revolution of 1789 to 1798. This was the only nation by whom and the only time when such an act was ever performed. "They shall divide the land for gain," verse 39. The large landed estates of the nobility were seized by the revolutionists, divided into small lots and sold to the people. The result was a "gain" of £700,000,000 to the national treasury.

In verse 40 two more powers are introduced into the prophecy "the king of the south" and the "king of the north." The king of the south is Egypt, and the king of the north Turkey, the territory now occupied by these nations constituting the kingdom of the south, and the kingdom of the north, from the standpoint of Palestine, on the original division of the empire of Alexander the Great. According to the application of this 40th verse, Egypt was to have a contest with France, and Turkey also to come against France "at the time of the end," or in 1789. The speaker pointed to history to show that all this was fulfilled in that year.

Turkey, with the help of England and Russia, came

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Turkey, with the help of England and Russia, came off best in this conflict, and the prophet then takes up the history of that power to the end of the chapter. Verse 44 brings to view the Crimean war from 1853 to 1856. The next verse, the last in the chapter, contains two specifications which have not yet been fulfilled. "He shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain, yet he shall come to his end and none shall help him." This is understood to mean that the seat of government shall be moved from Constantinople to the glorious holy mountain which Bishop Newton interprets to mean Jerusalem. It is a well understood fact that Russia, ever since the days of Peter the Great, has entertained the design of acquiring for herself European Turkey and gaining possession of Constantinople. In pursuance of this policy the Crimean war was undertaken, and the treaty which that war closed was set aside by Russia in 1870. The same policy has led to the present conflict, and the prevailing sentiment among the most discerning of politicians is that Turkey must in time yield, and that Russia will gain all she designs.

While an exile on St. Helena Napoleon remarked on the coming Turkish crisis "In the course of a few years Russia will have Constantinople, part of Turkey, and all Greece. This I hold to be as certain as if it had already taken place. France, England and Prussia united cannot prevent it." The sentiment expressed by this great statesman, the speaker thought, was also sustained by the prophecy, and that the Turkish power was doomed to fall. It may not be accomplished in the present campaign, but it cannot be a great way in the future. And the downfall of this power is the signal for the standing up of Michael and the ushering in of eternal scenes. This is what makes this question so interesting a subject of study for the student of prophecy.

AFTERNOON

The great occasion of the day was the afternoon service. The trains from all directions had brought immense crowds upon the ground, and the grove literally swarmed with people. Mrs. White spoke on the subject of Christian Temperance. This lady is a forcible and impressive speaker, and holds the crowd with her clear utterances and convincing logic. She makes no half-way matter of the subject of temperance. To restrain people from the use of intoxicating drinks only, is but to lop off the outer branches, while the root is still left to flourish. She believes in striking at the root and purging the table from wrong kinds of food, irritating and unnaturally stimulating viands, as rich food, spices, tea, coffee, etc. If this is done with children, and their moral natures are quickened to stand for the right, they never will pursue the path of indulgence to the grosser articles of tobacco and intoxicating liquors.

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The great pavilion was crowded to its utmost capacity, while a living wall, three or four tiers in depth, stood around the outside. The best attention was given, and great apparent interest manifested in the discourse. Those who wished to listen had an opportunity, while those who came to stroll, strolled, and so all seemed to be satisfied. Two more discourses are announced for to-day; one at 4.30 this afternoon and 7.30 evening.