

XLII.

The Final Exposition.

Matt. xxv, 32.

The Final Exposition
~~The Judgment Day~~

Matt. xxv, 32: And before Him
shall be gathered all nations,

XLII.

¹⁸⁸²
Branchville, S. C.
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Introduction
Spartan P. A. B. S. T. Co. Jan. 29, 1878.

During the past week a great event
Spartan (Second ch.) Sumner, April 7, 1878 - Bridgeton Feb. 15/85
has attracted public attention

An exhibition of the work of the world
suggests the nations; diversity; their con-
dition; interrelation; the world, needy, busy,
vexed, accomplishing

But there will be another occasion,
in some respects similar, on the day sug-
gested in the text,

Will resemble this in

gathering all nations
representing conditions
arising by its discoveries

But its peculiar character will consist in
its being, as text says: "before God." Nobody
not need to be informed, instructed, ~~or~~ encouraged,
hence it will be not a day of exposition, but chiefly of
Judgment.

The Last Judgment
under the Similitude of an "Exposition"

Math. xxv, 32: And before Him
shall be gathered all nations.

These words present to our
minds an event, with which we
are all deeply concerned. The
form in which they present it,
is one of late years made specially
familiar, by reason of those mult.
gatherings in the interest of human
industry, which have in various
great cities of Christendom put before
the ~~eyes of men~~ eye, representative

works from all ² lands. The
international expositions or fairs held
in London & New York & Paris &
Vienna & Philadelphia, & ~~presently to~~
~~be repeated once more in the Gay~~
~~capital of France,~~ & ~~New-Orleans,~~
have used our
~~thoughts~~ ^{mind} to the great idea of an
universal gathering of men & a
showing of their deeds. The de-
vices of modern travel & communi-
cation have made the assurance
of divine purpose in our text al-
most comprehensible. The acquain-
tance, & interest, & mutual ambi-
tion of men & nations, have still
further made it a thing conceiv-
able that at some period all men
~~shall~~ may be gathered together; while

still we ~~realize~~ feel, that the only power that can convocate such an assembly is the Almighty & Eternal God.

The convocation is determined upon; the decree has gone forth; it has reached our ears. ~~When the Son of man shall come in his glory, & all the holy angels with~~

"The Son of man shall come (Matt. xvi, 27) in the glory of His Father, with His angels; & then He shall reward every one according to his works."

Under the similitude of our ~~two~~ worldly expositions, then, but guided by the various pictures of Holy Writ, I invite your attention this morning

to that last event of earth with
 which you will be concerned, ~~the~~

The Final Judgment.

We will pursue the subject by
 means of these four kindred thoughts.

May 11/76 a.m.

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Considered in the midst of impressions which our earthly exposition may be making upon us, I shall desire to fix God's great day in your minds by means of four kindred thoughts:

The constitution of the assembly
The cause of its convocation
The completeness of the exhibition
And its infinite importance.

I

In the first place, then: when the great day of the Lord shall have come, all the world will be assembled together. It will not be as now, that the titled, or respected, or rich, will constitute the whole, or the most of the assembly. It will not be an emperour, a few ambassadors of royal courts, the dignitaries of one or of all lands. No; all men will be there; ~~before~~

these shall be ² gathered all nations.
He to whom it was given to declare this
future occasion as one that he had seen
says: "I saw the dead, small & great,
stand before God. The sea gave up the
dead who were in it; & death shall
deliver up the dead who were in
them." (Rev. xx, 12, 13.) So says St. Paul (Ro-
mans xiv, 11, 12): "we shall all stand
before the judgment seat — every
one for us." add A

Where, or how, this vast multitude which
no man can number, is to be gathered,
it is impossible for us to know. Nor
should this allow even a passing ques-
tion of the fact. We are unable to
see how a place can be prepared to
display the industries of the nations,
or to shelter those who would behold
them; but it is done, & we can only
say that ~~what~~ we who struggle at

What a picture ^A of multitude do
these simple Scriptural statements present
to the mind! All that are now liv-
ing — all that lie buried in their
graves — yes, even that vast uncounted
host whose bodies have lain
bleaching on the desert sands, or
fallen into the deep unfathomable
caves of ocean, ^{infants, & youth, & middle-aged;} all these shall rise
& stand together in the day that has
been chosen to judge the quick & the
dead. There are now, it is supposed,
some thirteen hundred millions of
souls people in the world. There have
been one hundred & forty (the present
world add, & one) generations since the
Flood, varying downwards from that
number. ~~Over~~ ~~The mind fails to conceive~~
~~of such an array; men have even doubted~~
~~where so many could find place —~~

well say that a great man & a good
 has fallen in Israel.

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100 100
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How tremendous the pomp of that oc-
 casion, considering nothing else but
 simply the host of human beings
 who have made up the history of this
 world all, all assembled & awaiting
 in the terrible attention of their Maker!

~~not terrible even a thousand.~~
~~together and away there is a~~
~~all his life, can summer. His soul~~
~~for the definite creator, His first fare~~
 is better than riches, than silver &
 gold.

3566
 1370
 1261
 89

the abilities of our own race, need not wonder to find the power of our Maker insensible. Enough for us, that God has revealed to us that He has fixed a time when before Him shall be gathered all nations.

It is much more important to us, to consider the feelings which will move that great company. This is made matter of distinct revelation (vi. 15 sq.) ~~The King of the earth~~ Unlike these worldly expositions, when emperors propose the Sabbath occasions when human pride fathers to hasten their arrival at them, men together, that day, will be felt indeed to be "a day (Zeph. i, 15) of wrath, a day of trouble & distress, a day of rages, & storminess, desolation, a day of darkness & gloominess, a day of clouds & thick darkness." So it is prophesied, & so it will be felt; for St. John says: "The King of the earth, & the great men, & the

rich men, & the ⁴ chief captains, &
the mighty men, & every board man
& every free man — will hide them-
selves in the dens & in the rocks of
the mountains, & will say to the mountains
& rocks, "Fall on us, & hide us!"

Yes, & the very appearance of the
multitude will increase this terror.
For our Savior foretold (John v, 28) that
"all who are in the graves," hearing His
voice, should come forth to differing
bodies: "they that have done good, unto
the resurrection of life; & they that
have done evil, unto the resurrection
of damnation." — ~~With what dreadful~~
~~testimonies of sins, there, will the~~
~~bodies of a great part of the best ap-~~
~~pear — fit bodies in which to hold~~
~~the~~ ~~How~~ ~~dreadful~~ to the
sight of all will be the bodies that
come out of the grave by the resurrection

of damnation! instruments of evil
 passions & appetites forever to torment
 those who had in time of probation
 these shall be seen *the trembling disfigured body of the drunk
 given free rein to them. A Not strange
 and the filting carcass of the sensualist no longer able to
 will it be that of Matt. xiii, 49) the au-
 hide the ravages which their sins have made upon them, but
 self shall come forth & sever the
 revealed to every eye & appalling in a foulness which shall
 make from among the just, as a
 they be seen to continue forever!*
 shepherd (Matt. xxv, 32) divideth his sheep
 from the goats."

Such will be the ~~great multitude~~ ^{company}
 who will be present in multitudes on
 the solemn occasion we are to
 consider.

II

But, in the second place: who
 will cause this wondrous assem-
 bly to gather together? For what pur-
 pose will they come?

The text replies: All nations shall
 be gathered, before God.

Now is the day of men. See
 how they marshal the nations
 together, in London, ~~& New York~~ &
 Paris & Vienna, & Philadelphia, & ~~New~~
~~Orleans!~~ Port by - & - by there will be an
 end... These world's fairs, their
 wares, & their artisans, & their
 effects, will all find their limit.
 The long "accepted time" will
 be brought to its close; the "days of
 our years" will be done. Then will
 be shown "the day of the Lord";
 "the great & terrible day (Joel ii, 31) of
 the Lord." He will convoke an as-
 sembly such as we have considered,
 for His own purposes.

God is waiting, all these ages, for
 His day to come. It is not postponed;
 it is not delayed; nay, even His prophet

630 B.C.
Zephaniah, two-^{ty} five hundred years
ago, said: "The great day of the Lord is
near, it is near, & hasteth greatly." "Is
it not? can it, however far hence,
fail to come suddenly, "as a thief in
the night" (I Thes. v, 2) to many of
our wicked race? "God has appoint-
ed" it (Acts xvii) from the foundation
of the world. He waits; & in His ed-
em Providence it is sure to come,
the day of the Lord.

It is necessary, in His govern-
ment. Men are showing, now, that
they deem best for the interests of
this world. God intends equally to
manifest what the interests of all
worlds, & all beings, ^{enlarge} require. He has
revealed to St. John to say (Rev. vi, 9): "I
saw under the altar the souls of
them that were slain for the world."

God, & for the ⁸ testimony which
they held; & they cried with a loud
voice: How long O Lord, holy & true,
dost Thou not judge & avenge our ^{blood}
on them that dwell on the earth?"

And the answer comes back to us from
the ages - "Enoch, the seventh from No-
ah, prophesied saying: ^{Behold!} The Lord cometh,
with ten thousand of His saints, to
execute judgment upon all, & to convince
~~them~~ of all that are ungodly among
them of all their ungodly deeds which
they have ungodly committed, & of
all their hard speeches which ungodly
sinners have spoken against Him."
(Jude 14, 15.)

This, my ~~lover~~ is fellow-sinner,
is what God's exposition of the
whole world is for. ~~the~~ It is to
vindicate Himself, by showing men
to themselves & to the universe. Think

you there is any ~~doubt~~ question that they will appear inferiorly beneath such a showing as they are showing now ^{to make} in Philadelphia?

~~This tremendous scene will appear when the Son of~~

Consider, then, further, the appearance of Him whose is that great & terrible day. "God will judge the world in righteousness, by that Man whom He hath ordained; whereby He hath given assurance unto all men in that He hath raised ^{Him} from the dead." (Acts xvii, 31). These terrible

scenes will not be made until "the Son of Man shall come in His glory, with all His holy angels, with Him, & shall sit upon the throne

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of His ~~glory~~ glory." (Context.)
Then shall he be pattered before Him all
nations & he shall divide them. It
is a son of man who is to ~~be~~ have
the glory of that day. He, ~~has been~~
~~offered as a son~~ the Son of God, has
~~taken~~ low since takes human form,
& been found in fashion as a man.

"Down all the steps of that ladder of
descent which the Apostle has outlined
outlined" (I use the words of another

— R. S. Stearns Jr., Fish's 19th Century Divines p. 498)

"when he speaks of Him who was equal
with the Father, taking on Him the
nature, not of angels, but of man; de-
scending to the earth; & not to the earth
only, but to poverty in it; & not to pov-
erty only, but to shame & to death; & even
to the death of the criminal on the cross;
— down all these steps, at which angels

are amazed, we "count the foot-
falls of a perfect benevolence!" He will
assemble us all; He will call men to
show what they have done. If they
have been wicked, ~~it is their~~
their wickedness will be shown to
consist in a rejection of Him; if
they have been righteous, their right-
eousness will be shown there been
love & obedience to His dear name.

Such will be the Person who shall
convolve the great assembly, & such
the cause He will display.

III

Thirdly: It is preeminently im-
portant to us to appreciate, the
completeness of the exhibition that
the Lord will make on that day.

"For God shall bring every work into
judgment, with every secret thing,

whether it be ¹² good, or whether
it be evil (Ecc. xii, 14)."

In the exhibitions which men
make, three things are noticeable:

They show, chiefly, rather the works
of the great & the prospered, than of
those whose ^{lack of} advantages might add a
peculiar beauty to what they do;

They show even these, only represen-
tatively, that is, a vast part of even the
better works of men so unexhibited;

and the evil works of men are
by no means exhibited at all.

The words which I just quoted
from Scripture show that ~~the~~
~~Jesus Christ will show forth our~~
~~race in no such unjust process as~~
~~this~~ (when our

Maker shall call our whole race together
before the universe, He will make an

altogether different showing from this. He will bring every work into judgment. What the Kings & rulers of the earth have done, will not be more positively called for than what the Moravian missionaries & their heathen neighbors can bring from Surinam & Terra del Fuego (Evang. Alliance 1873, p. 619). Not only the Khedive of Egypt, but his unhappy serfs, will have equal showing in that day.

Not will they be ^{merely} represented, but themselves called. "Every one of us shall give account of himself to God," as we have seen. God is no respecter of persons (Acts x, 34); the small & great will alike appear before Him, as they may have been alike in the grave.

But ah! this is not all. God

will bring every ¹⁴ secret thing into
judgment — whether it be good, or whe-
ther it be evil. So it was when He
was on ^{a Saviour} earth; & so it shall be when

He comes ^{the second time} a Judge.

Then we shall get at the whole history of the mill, never really ^{revelated} by men. (V. George Hist. & -men, p. 36)

The widow truly casting in her
mite, will be rewarded before the
whole world; the ~~unjust judge~~
~~doing justice for only selfish reasons~~

Pharisee praying ^{not to God but} with himself will
be unmasked before the same beheld.

etc. God has suffered, or helped, each to
follow in his or her own chosen way,

serving Christ or serving self; &

He will delight to bring the result
to light, & to test, & to judgment.

Christ's enemies need not hope for
any aid from Him then; Christ's
disciples need not fear all the terrors

that shall shade ¹⁵ & destroy the
world.

But more particularly: "Every knee
shall bow (Rom. xiv, 11), & every tongue
shall confess to God!" First, they shall
declare their own deeds. Each mortal
soul shall bow before God & confess
~~that~~ to the truth of the record to
his name, when the books of God's
record shall be opened. Every thing
that he ever did in this life each
one shall tell; ~~and~~ with the Lord
Jesus, sitting on his throne in glory,
will demand it; all the universe
shall listen; & it must be told.
O the awful confronting of evil deeds
there! O the glorious confessing of
the good deeds hidden even from
one's own left hand, but known to
the Lord, & treasured up for reward!

Second, ~~#~~ Every idle word that men have spoken, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment; for by their words they shall be justified, & by their words they shall be condemned (Matt. xii, 36, 37). The Lord Jesus the Judge assured the words of this while He was on earth as their Savior; when He comes to make up His jewels, He will hold men to it. "Therefore whatsoever ye have

~~Heaven there~~

~~that~~, spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; & that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops (Luke xii, 3)."

Third, The exposition of men's lives will not be confined even to

acts & words.

For the Lord says (Rev. ii, 23) "all the churches shall know that I am He Who searcheth the reins & hearts; & I will give unto every one of you according to his works." So Jeremiah prayed (xi, 20): "O Lord of hosts, that inspect righteousness, that visit the reins & the hearts."

O that will be a terrible showing forth of men, their ~~heart~~ words & their hearts, when the Lord Jesus Christ shall openly appear, & take away the veil of secrecy which now hides the world so profoundly from itself!

~~All things are naked & open unto Him~~

"There is no creature (Heb. iv, 13) that is not manifest in His sight; but all things are naked & opened ~~to Him~~ unto the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do." "Hell & destruction are before the

Lord," says the wise man (Prov. xv, 11); "how

much more than ¹⁸ the hearts of the
children of men!" AD 18A.

So the world — all of us, everyone,
from all ages & conditions — the
world will be gathered, & all that
men here done displayed by the
almighty power of God in Christ.
O what a showing it will be! ~~and~~
It will be so complete, so perfect; not
of deeds or words only, but reaching
down & back of them to the secret
intentions & purposes, that everything will
lie on its true merits: an absolutely
full and true exposition of all
the world.

IV

It remains but to add, in col-
ling up on this ~~Providential~~ ~~exposi-~~
~~tion~~ this mighty scene, a consid-
eration of its infinite importance.

Then shall men look in awful dismay upon sins spread out for observation as are now the mines & products of earth. Chief among these, says St. Peter (II, ii, 10), will be those of men who ~~have~~ walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, & despise government [of God]. Then not the meretricious works of sensuous art will be there for admiration, but the awful effects which they have produced in human acts of sin; & men will remember with sorrow how they made not a covenant with their eyes, ^(Job xxxi, 1) that they should not look & be defiled. Then shall be demonstrated the justice & the necessity of government, & anarchy shall find its fitting doom.

nation, while the same judgment shall fall in due degree upon every other soul who deemed God's time too slow and avenged with riot & murder the wrongs that each would not endure. The patience of the martyrs shall stand out in lovely contrast to the passions of the proud.

This Exposition that God is truly going to make, shall that each of us has done, is the last that will ever be made. It will be made by the Infinite God; & it is an exposition which will last forever. No other ever ~~can~~ ^{need} be made, for the thoroughness of this; no other ~~will~~ can be made, for the proofs & decisions of this will forever remain in the Knowledge & sight of the saved, & ^{in the} ~~in~~ the lost.

When the Son of man shall come in His glory, shall His holy angels with Him; then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory, & before Him shall be gathered all ~~nations~~ people; & He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from

the goats. And ²⁰ He shall set the
sheep on his right hand; but the goats
on his left. Then shall the King
say unto them on his right hand:
Come, ye blessed of my Father! inherit
the kingdom prepared for you from
the foundation of the world. For I was
an hungered, & ye gave me meat; I
was thirsty, & ye gave me drink; I
was a stranger & ye took me in; na-
ked & ye clothed me; I was sick, & ye
visited me; I was in prison, & ye came
unto me. Then shall the righteous
answer Him saying; Lord when saw
we Thee an hungered & fed Thee? or thirsty,
& gave Thee drink? When saw we Thee a
stranger & took Thee in? or naked & clothed
Thee? Or when saw we Thee sick or in
prison, & came unto Thee? And the
King shall answer & say unto them:

Verily I say unto you: Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall

He say also unto them on the left hand: Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil & his angels; for I was an hungred, & ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty, & ye gave me no drink; I was a stranger, & ye took me not in; naked, & ye clothed me not; sick, & in prison, & ye visited me not. Then shall they answer him, saying: Lord, when saw we Thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, & did not minister unto Thee? Then shall he answer them, saying: Verily I say unto you: Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it

not to me.

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And these shall
go away into everlasting punishment;
but the righteous into life eternal."

My heavens! God has given me
this message to repeat to you, that you
may realize that the written words
of the Bible are a letter from Him
to you, to your own self.

1. Let me remind you, first, ~~that~~
on that great & terrible day, your

Main Thoughts

1. All men will be present
2. They will be before the Lord Jesus Christ
3. They will exhibit all their works
4. This exhibition will be the final one
called for purpose of judgment
thoroughness will preclude any other
decision also foretold will shut up men acc. to life

Application

1. Our works are to be shown
2. Our eternal destiny hangs on that exhibit
3. Now is the day of grace II Peter 3:11-13 which helps us
4. Happiness not so essential now as faithfulness