CHAPTER XXI

THE FINAL STATE

1. “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first  
heaven and the first earth passed away: and the sea exists no  
more.”  
  
THERE will be a “new heaven.” From this it would  
appear that a new atmosphere and new stars will surround the new world. The former stars have fallen,  
the former atmosphere departed.  
 Here begins another epoch. There is a new creation  
in honour of the second Adam; just as there was a creation  
prepared for the first. As a fresh surface of earth  
greeted Noah after his coming forth out of the ark, so  
after the last deluge of fire the escaped come forth  
upon a new world. Its physical and moral standings  
are altered.  
 As Hengstenberg observes, the corruption of the  
creation began with persons, and then it seized on  
material things; so God restores first the fallen persons,  
and then the creation.  
 The earth is new. Two promises of new heavens  
and earth are found in Isaiah.  
 1. The first is given just after the Most High discovers to us the last form of evil on the earth, and  
declares the contrasted portions of His friends and His  
foes. “For behold I create new heavens and a new  
earth; and the former shall not be remembered, nor  
come into mind” (Isa. lxv. 17).