

DR. CUMMING, of Scotland, is a divine celebrated no less for his preaching and erudition, than for his zealous and untiring opposition to the errors of the Papacy. For nearly forty years he has, from the pulpit of the Scotch Church in Covent Garden, expounded to crowded and sympathising congregations the shortcomings of the Romish Church, and it is but the other day that the Œcumenical Council drew him into a personal controversy with the Pope. A Scotchman by birth, and a member of the Established Church of Scotland, his religion is of that controversial and gloomy character which the Christianity of the northern climes so generally assumes. It seeks to make men do right through fear of doing wrong, and Dr. Cumming's followers are of the sort who require to be frightened into the way they should go, and to be kept therein by a due admixture of the terrible in their religion. His teaching reminds one of those pictures in which the early painters of the Middle Ages delighted to exercise a morbid imagination in depicting the fantastic horrors of Purgatory.

To this religious craving for the frightful which produced these paintings, combined with that morbid desire to know the future which has existed in all ages, Dr. Cumming owes his reputation; and he successfully satisfies their demands with anticipations of the Wrath to come, and predictions of the dissolution of the universe. It is, indeed, as an unsuccessful prophet on these subjects that Dr. Cumming is best known to the world. He has preached before the Queen, and his numerous works—notably "The Great Tribulation," and, more recently, "The Seventh Vial," in which he publishes his interpretation of the prophetic parts of Scripture as revealing the future history of Europe and the End of the World—have acquired a notoriety which cannot be gainsaid. For the sake, however of Dr. Cumming and ourselves, if not of Dr. Cumming's reputation, we are inclined to hope that the world will last our generation.