for we know not when the Lord will come.   I do not think that these exhorta-
tions to watch mean that we should be curiously examining all the events
of current history and studying every minute detail of the Bible in order
to try to find out exactly when He is coming back.   That is a mystery
which He has kept in His own hands.   I think that it is more like the case
~~of a man who is~~, of an officer who is placing soldiers on guard duty, and
he tells them that the officer of the day will come to inspect their work
from time to time, and he says, "Watch, for you don't know when the officer
of the day will come."   He doesn't mean, "Keep your eyes open for the com-
ing of the officer of the day.   Watch constantly to see if he is coming."
He means, "Be on your guard that you don't fall into carelessness.   Watch
for the enemy, for you don't know when the officer will come and check
your work!"   We should love the return of Christ.   Paul says that there is
a crown promised to all those who love His appearing.   If we are truly
His, saved by His blood, we are longing that He shall return.   We are
ready to say with the apostle John, "Even, so, Lord Jesus, come quickly."
We long for His return but we are watching that our lives should be such
that we would be glad to have Him come at any moment.   Whatever we do, we
are anxious that we shall be found active and busy and ready for His com-
ing.   "Watch, for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man shall
come."   John says that everyone that has this hope in him purifies him-
self even as He is pure.   The one who believes in the return of Christ
should be diligently in service watching lest the enemy should gain an
advantage over him, purifying himself in his life, serving the Lord with
the utmost diligence while it is day for the night comes when no man can
work.   Whether this refers to the coming of the terrific tribulation
when it will be impossible to carry on satisfactory Christian work or
whether it means the coming of a time when all the wicked shall be removed
from this earth, when for them eternal night shall have begun and it is