

up upon the nations ; and justice and judgment have been the habitation of His throne. You are not ignorant of those dreadful convulsions which, in many countries, have burst asunder every social tie. You are every day hearing, and it is our privilege only to hear, of wars, which, for carnage and ruin, have been seldom equalled. A detail of the peaceful avocations of social intercourse, has not, for many years, been the history of nations ; but the vengeful contendings of man with man ; the marches, conflicts, and destruction of armies. Such are the visitations of God, when He pours indignation upon guilty lands : God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran. Before Him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at His feet. He stood, and measured the earth ; He beheld, and drove asunder the nations ; the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow.

Of the immediate effects of those wars and commotions with which the Lord has been chastising many parts of the world, we know but little ; nor is it possible for us, in present circumstances, to know with accuracy. They only who feel, can estimate the havoc which they make in the happiness of men. From their very nature, however, it may be easily conceived, that they must implant pangs of misery in the breasts of multitudes. Even when conquest and triumph adorn the operations of war, it is fraught with calamities. The very shouts of rejoicing add to its wounds. After them is heard the cry of the widow and fatherless, announcing what war is, and what pains it inflicts. Wasting and desolation attends its steps. It is like a sweeping pestilence to the happiness of men. Though the land before it be like the garden of Eden ; all behind it, is a desolate wilderness. These things have been abundantly felt by many nations in Europe ; and Europe is the principal seat of the Christian Church. Its members, therefore, mingled with the nations, have drunk the same cup, and experienced the adversity of troublous times.

But the Church has been also subjected to troubles peculiar to itself. The apostle Peter, unfolding the events of the last days, had announced the appearance of scoffers, denying and undermining the Christian faith ; and the completion of this prophecy, affording an additional proof of the truth of revelation, has been exemplified before us. The revolutions in Europe at the conclusion of the last century, were connected with an extensive dissemination of the principles of infidelity. At that period also,