

## Selected Extracts.

### THE REV. C. SPURGEON, ON THE CHOLERA.

The Rev. Mr. Spurgeon lately preached to his congregation a sermon on the subject of the Cholera. The title of the sermon was "The Voice of the Cholera," and the text Amos iii. 3. 6. A correspondent of the *Presbyterian* gives the following account of the Sermon.

He began by saying that he had never shared in the indignation expressed by some Christian men, about those who speak of cholera as the product of accreted and governable causes. He did believe that if better dwellings were provided for the poor, if over-crowding were effectually prevented, if the water supply could be larger, and other sanitary improvements could be carried out, the disease would not probably occur. . . . *The Laws of cleanliness and health are as binding upon us as those of mortality.* So far from a Christian man being angry with those who instruct the people in useful secular knowledge, he ought rather to be thankful for them, and hope that their teaching may be powerful with the masses. *The gospel has no quarrel with ventilation.* . . . We preach repentance and faith, but we do not denounce white-wash, and much as we advocate holiness, we have always a good word for cleanliness and sobriety.

But with this preface the preacher did not fail to take up the position, that while "it is more common for those who look to nature alone, to sneer at believers who view the disease as a mysterious scourge from God; yet, sneer who may, we believe it an act of folly to forget that the hand of the Lord is in all this. The singular manner in which this disease seizes frequently on unlikely persons, and turns aside from an expected path, should show us that there is an unseen hand which directs its gloomy circuit."

Mr. Spurgeon, reminding his hearers that God is the governor of nations, and that national sins bring national judgments, went on to illustrate and enforce his very appropriate text in its several clauses. He enumerated the sins which are enough to provoke God—drunkenness, debauchery, constant neglect of the worship of God, for which last London is specially and pre-eminently guilty. He contrasted places in country districts, "where there is scarcely a soul to be found at home at the hours of public worship," with London.

The masses of our people regard not God, care not for the Lord Jesus, and have no thought about eternal things. This is a christian city we sometimes say, but where shall be found more thorough heathens than we may find here? In Canton, Calcutta, or even Timbuctoo, the people have at least a form of worship and a reverence for some idea of a God, but here tens of thousands make no pretence of religious worship. I protest unto you all that whereas you think Christianity to be well known in our streets and lanes, you only think so because you have not penetrated into their depths, for thick darkness covers the people. There are discoveries yet to be made in this city, that may make the heart of Christendom melt for shame that we should have permitted such God dishonouring ignorance, that in the very blaze of the sun, as we think our country to be, there should be black spots where Christian light has never penetrated. O London! dost thou think that God's Sabbaths are forever to be forgotten; that the voice of the gospel is to sound in thine ears, and forever to be despised? Shalt thou forever turn thy foot from God's house, and despise the ministrations of his truth, and shall he not visit such a city as this?

If the cholera is not laid to heart, "there may come a pestilence which may reap the multitude as corn is reaped by the sickle," or we may be left to be ravaged by the pestilence of *deadly evil destroying error*. God may remove the candlestick out of its place, and take away the bread of life from those who have despised it; and then, great city, thy doom is sealed. With great power he went on to dwell on "one thing which yet provokes God above all else—that we have once again, as a nation, permitted downright Popery to claim to be our national religion." The reference was to the rampant Ritualism now coming in like a flood. The following has the ring of Latimer's days, and comes from a