

weeks since, when this now dying year first rose new and fresh upon the world in the light of the resurrection morning; and if, as the days and weeks and months and seasons swept past, he had been called upon to declare what he saw; how varied, and in very many cases how startling would have been his report! Surrounded by the marvellous appliances of our modern civilization, every one may now be his own Watchman. The daily newspaper spreads the world before him, and he may mark what comes to pass from the equator to the poles, and throughout every longitude.

And what has the year shown us? War — fierce, grim-visaged war — bloody, barbarous war. After forty years of peace, Europe has been most seriously disturbed, and three of its first rate Christian powers involved in war. Greek Christian, Protestant Christian, and Roman Christian, have mustered their hosts to the battle, and their ensigns have mingled, some in deadly strife, and some in friendly alliance with the banners of the Moslem. The immediate moving cause of this terrible calamity of nations has been made plain to every one who took any proper notice of passing events. The cloud at first appeared no bigger than a man's hand, yet so obviously threatening, that quick-sighted men had no difficulty in predicting the consequences. When the paltry dispute about the "holy places" commenced in Constantinople last year, the British minister there saw that it was going to lead to grave results. He looked upon it in connection with past events, and interpreted it by the light which they imparted. Russia in many respects is one of the most remarkable countries in the world. But lately born into the grand community of acknowledged empires, its