

I do not participate in men's judgments in this respect ; but these fears, even if they magnify the apprehensions of men on one side or the other, are the fruit of the restless working of some principle which man cannot control, and hence his fears ; they are the confession of the instability of the order on which he relies ; and they presage, and in in the world's history have ever presaged, some violent disruption, because they were the expression of the consciousness of the force of what is breaking all up—that passions are stronger than what controlled them. The bonds of society are too tight or too weak. Power is not in them, but in the force that is working underneath them. Some would slacken them to give vent to the power at work ; some would tighten them, hoping to break or repress it ; some hope, and many more fear ; and none know what is to come. "After us, the Deluge," has become the proverbial expression of this in men's mouths—the exaggerated expression of self-importance, but the accepted utterance of general fears. The Christian knows that God overrules all things, and he does not fear in this way, but for that reason he is more calm and clear-sighted, less interested in the maintenance of particular forms, and hence more interested in judging the effect of principles on them. And, if indeed taught of God in this, guided by His word in the knowledge of what the result will be, yet a large number of Christians, however, add to the delusion, because, even among them, man's