

THE CANADIAN United Presbyterian Magazine.

VOL. VIII.] TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1861.

[No 9.]

Miscellaneous Articles.

RECENT EVENTS AND THEIR AUSPICES.

We do well to step aside from the hurrying current and whirl of events that we may calmly contemplate their character and their boding. No period of our past has been so fraught with interest and with hope as the present. Never, we believe, since the close of the preparation day for the advent of the Son of God, has transition so characterized the state of things, and augury the conduct of men, as in these times. Principles are being subjected to new and severe tests. Truth and error are engaged in seemingly decisive conflict; and systems hoary with age and with evil are toppling as if about to fall. Viewed in the light of prophecy, uncertain to us, though it be as to the time when, and the mode in which predictions shall be fulfilled, recent and passing events have a commanding interest, and quicken expectation in regard to the future of our world, which Satan has so long ruled, and which sin has so long wasted. Indeed, late evocations of Providence seem to authorize us to give entertainment to the conviction that the day of the world's redemption draweth nigh. It may be that a terrible baptism of many nations must intervene,—that fearful wars must be endured ere the Kingdom of Christ come in all its glory—ere righteousness and peace become universal. However, this may be, we confess to the belief that the wars lately waged, and wars that manifestly impend, will prepare the way for the speedy advent of those promised halcyon years of which inspired men have spoken in such rapturous strains and gorgeous terms. And the battle that proceeds and thickens in the arena of mind, where principles of the most opposite character and tendency are contended for with desperate and waxing energy, is not less important and ominous.