

ism then, like Mahometanism and Heathenism, is apparently being placed ready for the judgment of Providence and the propagation of the Gospel.

To Protestant churches, then, from which is to go forth the evangelizing process, to Protestant churches let us shortly look, that we may ascertain the existing state of preparation for the bringing in of the Millennium. I have already adverted to the striking and lamentable fact, that since the decease of the great reformers, no marked progress has been visible in the work which they commenced. That work was "like the spring time which opens the buds into leaves and blossoms in every land, and covers the fields with verdure. Champions for the truth, every where arose." The establishment of the churches which were then formed was, however, accompanied by some disadvantageous circumstances, which have ever since been operating in counteraction of the noble movement. In some countries the acts of the government changed the ecclesiastical constitutions and converted the Romish into Protestant churches. In others the people did not wait for the patronage or example of their superiors, but embracing the reformed religion induced their rulers to establish reformed churches. In others still, pious individuals acted not only without the authority but in opposition to the will of the magistrate,—and of these many were made martyrs, and their light was extinguished. Of the first class were England, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, whose rulers changed the religion of their kingdoms. Of the second, Germany, Holland and Scotland, where the rulers followed and adopted the choice made by their subjects. Of the third, Spain, Italy and France, were