

branding the whole religion as an imposture. It is strange enough that when we find the very highest of the Hebrew prophets binding up what would be to us the strangest symbolic fancies with the very essence of his divinest prophecies, men should regard it as a proof of imposture that in another Oriental nation the same phenomenon should occur. For our own parts, we are content to hope that the high faith, the courage, the self-restraint, and the pious patriotism, which seems to characterize the insurgents — and which at least give these Chinese quite a fresh hold on human sympathies — are no uncertain signs of a very real and deeply-felt influence from above.

THE FIRST CENTURY OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA.

(Concluded from page 329.)

THE oppression of the Roman governors, added to the insults offered to their religion by the insane vanity of the emperors,* at last drove the Jewish nation to desperation, and they betook themselves to arms. The rebellion ended, as is well known, in the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus, and the total dispersion of the nation.† The circumstances attending this event, so amply detailed by Josephus, the Jewish historian, need not here be repeated; the fierceness of the defence, and the cruelty of the vic-

* Caius Caligula had ordered his statue to be set up in the holy place, but rescinded the decree on hearing of the tumults it occasioned.

† The triumphal arch of the conqueror is still to be seen at Rome. It exhibits the only representation now remaining to us of the costly vessels of the Jewish temple.