

other. The scenes of the Reformation may be again reacted. The spirit of intolerance and exclusiveness in certain quarters has well nigh reached its height. We are indeed clear of the hanging, and burning, and beheading of other days, for our religious opinions. We do not say what a would be predominant, and State-supported sect would do ; but we have reason to bless God that they have, in this country at least, comparatively little in their power. The great adversary, knowing that his kingdom of darkness must decline as the light of truth advances, is striving by various expedients to oppose and quench it, but his efforts will be all in vain. There are, however, striking indications of growing wrath on his part, as if he knew his time was short. Error in all its forms is assiduously and successfully propagated, but the progress of evangelical truth is also great. The enemy has come in like a flood, but the spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. Besides, the Lord in His Providence has come out of His holy place in the execution of His judgments. There have been famines in divers places ; the pestilence has followed in the wake of famine, and during the past season this continent has been made to mourn, by the vast influx of stricken thousands, who, in seeking an asylum from want and suffering in their own land, have brought with them contagion and death to ours. By all these things, the Most High, who rules in the kingdom of men, is uttering His voice, which ought to be heard and understood.

Nothing is more clearly revealed than the fact that God will visit the earth with judgments in order to make way for the predicted triumphs of the Gospel. He will shake not only the nations, but the churches will be shaken. He will sift them as wheat is sifted in a sieve. The process will be terrible, but not a grain shall be lost. "His fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor and gather his wheat into the garner : but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his, and when he has separated them from the wicked, and purified and fitted them for his own use, "He will make them an eternal excellency, the joy of many generations." In whatever direction we look, the signs of the times are remarkable and important ; we are constrained to say, "How great are His signs, how mighty are His wonders."

*We may consider some of the duties which rest upon us as a denomination, arising out of the peculiar aspect of the times.* "The children of Issachar were men who had understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do." *And so in the present day, the members of our churches are required to be well acquainted with their own distinctive*