

and has caused his gospel to be preached to every nation on the earth during these last eighteen centuries. Some have refused to be Christians, even in name, and some have professed to be Christians with their lips, but generally denied it by their actions: these are the European or nominally Christian nations; yet these nations have prospered just in proportion as they have practised the precepts of Christianity, and have been exalted far above those nations who refused to be Christians even in name.

These nominally Christian nations are now about to be set aside for a time (even as the Jews anciently were), because they have not profited more than they have by the light of the gospel. But as, when God rejected the Jews, he first selected the best from among them, even so now God will gather together the best from among the Christian nations before he casts them off from being his peculiarly favoured people, even as he formerly cast off the Jews for a time. And as many thousand Jews were converted to Christianity (three thousand in one day, and daily many more, Acts ii. 41, 47; iv. 4), and so were saved from the calamities which befel the Jews at the destruction of Jerusalem; so now also shall many thousands from among the nominally Christian nations be gathered together, and shall become one united people, and so shall escape the judgment which is most certainly about to come upon the nominally Christian nations. And the number of this company will probably exceed the number of the first Christians who were of the Jewish race, as much as the number of nominal Christians exceeds that of the Jews.

It is absolutely necessary that we, who desire to really act up to the Christian principle, should be a separate and distinct community or people; for if we attempt to show by our deeds or actions that we really do love our neighbours as ourselves, while we are mixed among the merely nominally Christian nations, we shall only lose all our wealth, all our influence, all our time, and all our labour, and so make ourselves "a prey," and be laughed at as fools in addition, for there would be altogether