

earth. Such a spirit if not repented of, must sooner or later have provoked the displeasure of the Most High. "Those that walk in pride he is able to abase" and "his eyes are upon the haughty that he may bring them down."

There are other faults of the American character, which intelligent men among themselves are ready to acknowledge. But we think that viewing the present war as a dispensation of Divine Providence, we may see that this is especially receiving the rebukes of the Almighty. Of nothing were the Americans so boastful as of their Union. John Angel James some years ago remarked that they were making this their idol, and said in tones of solemn warning, that if this feeling continued to prevail among them as a people, God would dash their idol to the ground. The blow has fallen most heavily upon them in those very points on which they were most boastful and looked with most contempt on other nations. Hitherto the whole course of events has appeared as if it were the special design of God to humble them as a nation. "The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day."

In these remarks we have no other feeling than good will to our American neighbours. We have too many friends among them—we have seen too much to admire in their country—we appreciate too highly the position as a nation, which they hold in regard to Protestant Christianity, not only on this continent but throughout the world, to wish anything but their advancement in material, moral and spiritual greatness. Our hope is, and we should think it would be the prayer of all good men, that these trials will through the kindness and overruling power of the ruler of the universe, end in the purging out of those evils in the state which have provoked his displeasure, and in correcting those elements of national character, which are offensive in his sight; and thus preparing them as a people for a higher destiny, and for those important services to humanity and the world. But if these ends are to be secured, it must be by their faithfully searching out what is wrong among them—by confessing it—by humiliation before God on account of it, and especially by putting away the evil of their doings from "before his eyes." "Then shall their light break forth as the morning, and their health shall spring forth speedily; and their righteousness shall go before them, and the glory of the Lord shall be their reward."

What is to be the issue of the present struggle is beyond the ken of mortals. Parties predict very confidently one way or other. The overwhelming majority of the people of the North look for the establishment of their union in all its entirety at an early period, and the people of all the states dwelling peaceably under the shadow of the Constitution as in former days; while the general opinion abroad is that a re-union of the two sections in a spirit of harmony is hopeless. To us we confess that the prospects every way seem dark. The peaceable separation of the two sections into separate nations it is vain to think of at present. And there are difficulties connected with the restoration of the union by force of arms, which are only beginning to be appreciated by thoughtful men among the Americans, and the way to the removal of which we confess ourselves unable to see. Even success is yet a matter of some uncertainty. Looking at the immensely superior resources of every kind on the part of the North, the likelihood is altogether on their side, and one year ago, when they took up arms, we would have supposed that the South could not have resisted six months. But "the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong." All history warns us against the conclusion that immensely superior resources necessarily obtain success.—