

Christian Observer of Public Events.

THE TROUBLES IN THE UNITED STATES.

There is nothing stable or permanent in this vale of tears; everything here below is subject to change and uncertainty. The most stable governments have had their revolutions and the mightiest kings have had only their day, and some have not lived out half their days. The governments of some countries are so subject to change—and to change from one extreme to another—that stability is the exception, while change is the rule. What a striking illustration of this change and uncertainty have we in the history of France? And it would appear from the history of the past of the French nation, that a despotic form of government is the most suitable for the genius of that people. But revolution and change, anarchy and rebellion, are not peculiar to monarchical forms of government, are not any more perfect, nor more free from change and corruption, than those forms of government that republicans affect to despise. The recent strange occurrences in the Southern States afford us another striking proof that revolutions are not confined to any particular form of government. We are so accustomed to refer all revolutions and popular disturbances to the oppression of monarchical institutions, and the efforts of an oppressed people to be free, and to secure their natural rights, that we are somewhat astounded to hear anything like trouble amongst our neighbours. We are not at all astonished to hear of revolutions in the Italian States,—the wonder is that they did not occur earlier. The scenes recently transpiring on the plains of Lombardy are sufficient evidence of what an enslaved

and oppressed people will do when once roused to a sense of their wrongs. And we presume that equal rights and equal privileges—the good of the governed,—the welfare of all, is all that most men care for, no matter what form of government they may happen to live under. The recent course of events and the astounding occurrences at the neighbouring Republic, teach us that our neighbors have not yet secured that “Paradise gained” they so often boast of, and justify us in anticipating consequences and results the most fearfully awful, and that at no very distant period of time. The theory of United States government is very fine and very flattering; but very delusive indeed. It is true that each separate State is free and sovereign. They can make their own laws, they can punish their own criminals, and they can raise their own cotton, tobacco, and corn. But they are not free after all. They have delegated to a “joint authority” nearly all their individual rights as respective States of the Union, for their mutual protection and benefit. But the Governor is the Military Commander of each State, and placed at the head of the armed force of the country. He alone can relieve—life and death are placed in his hands. The whole government of the United States is an anomaly—an enigma—a puzzle. It cannot stand. The confederation is strangely limited to its constitutional powers. The government of each State is the rule, while the federal government is the exception to the rule. And here is the secret of their weakness, and the secret of their present trouble. The federal government is not the supreme govern-