

~~quicken the requisite knowledge, or the means of mitigating~~
its virulence.

Thanks to God, we have on this occasion full warning, and former experience leaves little or no doubt of its approach. Accordingly precautions are already being taken to secure the body against its fatal influence. But is this all? Are the interests of the body to be cared for, and those of the soul neglected?

Not that human precautions are to be overlooked, much less treated with indifference, for it is our duty to make reasonable and salutary preparation, and to use every means in our power to preserve ourselves and dependants from impending danger; but all we can *do* will be of no avail if unattended with the Divine blessing, and therefore ought we most earnestly to pray that He, by whom Nations rise and fall, flourish and decay, may be pleased, notwithstanding our manifold transgressions, to turn away the plague from our shores, or mercifully to mitigate the same, should it unfortunately arrive.

At this moment the civilized world presents a spectacle of contention, profaneness, and infidelity, to which the sad history of our race furnishes no parallel. Europe is convulsed from one end to the other—the foundations of society are laid bare, and all the elements of peace and order seem to disappear.