

*We cannot fail to note the rapidity with which events of the most startling character crowd on the scene of action.* Political and national convulsions are rife. As in the shifting views of a Panorama one follows the other in quick succession, thus the mighty illustrations of God's government of earthly affairs are pressed home on our attention, with hardly breathing time between. These movements, too, we must have observed, are closely interwoven with moral and religious questions. India, Syria, Italy, and the States of America have, during the last few years, been the theatres of actions heralding the coming of great events. We are on the threshold of mighty changes. Old despotisms are struggling as in the throes of death. Millions of our race, hitherto down-trodden and crushed, are exulting in anticipation of liberty. God's plowshare of war is turning up the soil on which to sow the seeds of freedom. The proclamation of the year of jubilee is surely at hand. The whole sky reddens with the glow of the rising Sun of the good time coming. True, there are ever occurring checks which seem to throw back the expected day—our own sky has been dark with agitations of threatening war; but let all be still, and know that God reigns. He has said, I will be exalted on the earth.

The highway is preparing for the triumphant march of the Prince of Peace, let no followers of His be unnerved, amid the turmoil and the strife, for acting well his part. Trust in God. Let faith sing, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled; though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof."

*We recognise it as an indisputable fact, that there is a vast and constantly increasing system of means in operation for bringing the gospel to the knowledge of all mankind.*

Many great and noble institutions have sprung into being during the last fifty or sixty years. Missionary Societies, sending forth to all the earth messengers of salvation. Bible and Tract Societies, printing and circulating in the many tongues of earth, the wonderful news of peace with God through the blood of Jesus. The hand of God meanwhile opening a great and effectual door for these operations—in China removing the barriers which for ages had walled in the millions of the flowery land from intercourse with others—in Italy securing an entrance for the Word, not by stealth, but by open sale, even in the streets of her cities—in Russia, through the medium of the Holy Synod, and the Bible Society in London, conveying, in the language of the common people, words of eternal life—in Austria removing the police regulations prohibiting the admission of the Scriptures into that empire—thus causing the good seed of the Kingdom to be sown broad-cast over these lands. Further, many evangelical and benevolent enterprises, whereby the world is blessed, are in these latter days in full operation, as for instance, Sabbath Schools, City Missions, Young Men's Christian Associations, Ragged Schools, Midnight Meetings, Bible Women, special efforts to reach the masses by preaching in Theatres and other places of public resort, Temperance Societies, in short a complete system of means intended to enclose in the gospel net many who have been too long neglected. These means are efficiently maintained. They are goodly boughs that have yielded much fruit. The interest in them is not dying. The throbbings of the heart of the living Church are