

hegira of the false prophet; and the facts which have been presented to us, while they unfold a new thing in the earth, are richly suggestive of the hope that as the Eastern and Western Antichrists rose nearly about the same time, their fall will prove cotemporaneous and complete.

Our last illustration of the agency of God as clearly seen in present movements, may be taken from scenes more immediately under our own eye, as passing on our western continent. Many of us are old enough to remember the sad defeats sustained both in Britain and America in the struggle against the slave trade first, and thereafter, the system of slavery itself, the great feeder of the infamous traffic. A large measure of success hung over the British banner of freedom; but alas! "the thirty years war" with home slavery in the American States was just a series of distressing disappointments. The wide-spread revivals of religion in the States within the last six years were causes of great joy; and yet the evil genius of servitude sadly interrupted that "goodly fellowship of the saints" in which revived Churches exceedingly rejoice, and for which Churches whether revived or not, from age to age, have given thanks. It has pleased God to make the two last Presidential elections eminently instrumental of good, in removing obstacles to universal emancipation. Thinking men long despaired of ordinary moral means making head successfully against a system of merchandise more sure in its gains than any other known among men, and a "baptism with blood" was significantly looming on the horizon; and so it has proved. Britain listened in time to the warnings given her; and by her "twenty millions" warded off the danger. Columbia, the boasted "land of the brave and the free," clung convulsively to the gilded bait, and is now paying the penalty of her madness. In the meantime, God has been working great marvels. Befitting instruments for the necessities of the case have been raised up and continued in operation. Not less than twenty-seven great public measures have been adopted by the Congress and the Legislatures of the North, all in favour of an abridgement, with the view to an overthrow of the accursed system. A marked change of public sentiment in favour of the rights of the human family, and against personal servitude, has been effected. The overthrow of the "Serf system" in Russia, by which twenty millions were set free, has made its influence felt in the farthest west; and Christian associations have carried aloft their heavenly "commission" in behalf of tried humanity. In all this, Jehovah is moving in his own mysterious way, bending to his purposes, the plans and the policy of men; and assuring us of the final triumph of universal rectitude.

We have endeavoured to give these slight sketches a practical bearing on duty and on privilege; but among the many inferences which may be drawn from the aspect of the times, we select simply the two following:—First, the duty and obligation of taking a religious view of public movements and events; and secondly, the necessity and importance of the Church keeping abreast of the age in her maintenance of a well informed, well appointed, and a decidedly pious and evangelical Ministry. God promises to give us such a Ministry; but it remains with us to avail ourselves of the means which he provides for securing it. If the learning and the wealth of this world are all to be placed under the control of the grand enemy, our "harps" may again be hung "upon the willows." Were I assured that this was the last time that it would be permitted me to address an academical and a Christian audience, my closing advice to all the Churches of the Reformation would be;—Regard elementary literature as the hand-maid to sound theology; seek for a generally well informed staff of pastors and teachers; despise not the logic and the rhetoric of the Schools; be much in prayer for the revival of religion; ever seek to strengthen the hands and cheer the hearts of faithful Ministers; and never forget that the Christian pulpit is worth far more than its price.