

entitle them to distinction—and should cultivate the brotherly kindness and charity for which, in the early days of the Church, christians were admired by the world. The Nova-sectian should gratefully say, "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage" Psalm xvi. 6.

Two hundred years have passed away since the confessors of St. Bartholomew's day delivered their testimony. The world and the church have slowly grown wiser since that time. The folly and iniquity of persecution are all but universally confessed. Statesmen begin to see that religion lies not in the sphere of government, and that they ought to have nothing to do with the allocation of ministers, the regulation of church services, the imposition of creeds, or the enforcement of discipline.

"Let Caesar's dues be ever paid
To Caesar and his throne;
But consciences and souls were made
To be the Lord's alone."

—Watts.

Darkness, it is true, as yet hangs over Roman Catholic countries, the spirit of the Inquisition surviving where its form is seen no more, or is stripped of the old terrors of that hateful institution. Protestant Sweden and Denmark, and some of the petty principalities of Germany, continue to vex and annoy separatists from the established churches. But in Protestant States generally, the rights of conscience are acknowledged, and practical liberty is enjoyed. In all North America there is "freedom to worship God." Italy, too, in the old world, is rising into life and free action. Enlightened men of all nations give their adhesion to the glorious cause. Islamism itself, the fiercest of all systems, begins to abate of its ferocity, for Mahomedans in Turkey are now permitted to embrace the christian faith. Even China is giving up its exclusiveness, and toleration is proclaimed throughout that vast empire.

These are cheering signs of the times. And with them is connected the continual development of bible-extension, which may be justly regarded as the great moral phenomenon of the nineteenth century. God has wonderfully interposed for the churches. Profound and various learning, and gifts otherwise qualifying their possessors for usefulness in this department, have been consecrated to the high purpose; and