

kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will? A few weeks, a few months passed away; then came tidings, each sadder than the last; tidings of heroic victories, of fearful losses, of misery, want, disease, and suffering in its most awful forms; whole regiments swept away by the bitter storms of a Crimean winter: whole battalions disappearing under the continued assaults of toil and hardship. And then there came a change over the heart of the nation. Then the voice of wailing was heard in many a homestead, and sorrow darkened many a once happy home. But then also, we are assured, the nation began to remember, that there is a God who alone ordereth the affairs of men, and to turn to Him for help and strength. Then the churches began to be crowded with earnest worshippers, and many a careless daughter of the world was driven, by the peril of those whom she best loved, to humble herself under the mighty hand of God, and to pour forth soul-felt petitions for their safety, from lips which had been but little used to pray. And who can tell how much these prayers may have availed? Who shall withdraw the veil that hides the counsels of the Almighty, and tell how on that dark November morning, when the Sabbath sun was shrouded in thickest gloom, and eight thousand British warriors endured for five long hours the fierce assault of the mighty Russian host,—who shall tell of what avail may have been the prayers which, even at that hour, from ten thousand village churches, through all the length and breadth of the British Isles, were winging their way to the throne of Grace! This is intended to be the effect of calamity upon nations and upon individuals. Well is it for them if it has this effect. Well, if it arrests the careless in their career, convinces the proud and self-confident of the insecurity of earthly strength, and teaches all to submit themselves unrepiningly to the supreme decrees of an over-ruling Providence. In England, I am glad to believe, this effect has been produced. Never, it has been remarked by careful observers, did the entire nation manifest such an earnest, manly, and yet temperate spirit; free alike from that self-confidence which displayed itself a year ago, and from that despair which would indicate distrust of their cause, or of the justice of God. Never was there such unanimity, such concord, such loyalty in the nation. Never were men so willing to expend their treasure or to peril their lives