

ing—only paying that attention to what is transpiring abroad, as is suggested by their own eccentric style of hospitality, made popular and interesting in the excitement occasioned by the reception and entertainment of a stray professor or a migratory missionary, whom we cannot deny they welcome, about Christmas time, with the same hearty relish we would a well-stuffed goose or an appetizing gobbler—and with an impulse and propensity very like our own, “kill ‘em and eat ‘em !”

Apropos of those systems to which I have referred, they may be excellent in their way, and actually represent the well-meaning fruits of centuries of pious scheming and scholarly toil to inaugurate a general social and ecclesiastical polity; thus viewed, they may stand out before the world splendid achievements in the line of intellectual and evangelical progress, and at the same time involve so much erudition and critical analysis in their application as to present, of themselves, more difficulties than the obstacles they are intended to overcome, and necessitate in their operation an ability even greater than that by which they were conceived. Jomini divined the Art of War in its highest excellence; but his rules, although surprisingly clever, required in their application what he lacked, viz., Genius; and in applying them personally he was worse than a novice, he was a failure. So, wanting that indispensable prerequisite, his systems were a clog and a hindrance, and instead of being the medium of his exaltation and triumph were the chief cause of his degradation and ruin. Great