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SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

The lawfulness of marking events occurring in the providence of God, as indications of the approach of important passages in the history of mankind, is, in our view, settled by the teaching of our blessed Redeemer. When His foes asked of Him a sign from heaven, He pointed out that they could understand and appreciate the signs of the weather, but failed in receiving the solemn lessons conveyed by events constantly transpiring. "O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" That was an age pregnant with great events in the establishment of the Messiah's Kingdom. The present is also an age, in our belief, teeming with indications of the triumphs of the religion of Jesus. We shall glance briefly at some of the signs of the times, alluding, in passing, to some of the dangers and duties which each particular aspect, either warns us of, or exhorts us to.

*The observer is struck with the activity of mind manifested in this age.* To a great extent the despotisms which have existed in the realms of thought have been dethroned. No gigantic tyranny can successfully erect barriers to oppose the entrance of inquirers at the portal of the temple of truth. The spell of potent enchanters is broken. At the Reformation the sleep of the dark ages was disturbed. From that era an influence has come down to the present, still spreading in its reach, and growing in its power. The School-Master is abroad. The press is ceaselessly employed. Postal and telegraphic communications bind in intercourse the scattered families of man. Inventions, struck from the forge of thought, have widely increased the range of man's knowledge—the telescope revealing the immensurability of God's pavilion, and the microscope opening the secret of His illimitable care. Labour-saving machinery increasing the comforts of the million, and, if properly regulated, tending to aid the self-improvement of multitudes. These are the new wonders of the world; while discoveries of various character, keep excitement alive, and stimulate thought. Many run to and fro, and knowledge is increased. Truly, the existing state of things calls for watchfulness, lest pride of intellect intrude, and the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word. Yet it provides a glorious opportunity of consecrating the highest powers to the service of Christ, and the gold of Australia, California and Fraser's River to the advancement of His cause throughout the earth.