

ture of Europe and of the world. In the meantime the madness of an Encyclical letter from the reigning Pope, in which the worst specimens of an ancient and, as it appears, incurable bigotry, are incorporated, bids us recognise in all this the truth of the well known adage—"Quos Deus vult perdere, prius dementat." It is painful indeed to think that twenty years ago, sentiments substantially the same with those now announced by Pio Nono, were taught at Oxford by a learned Professor, and published in a work on "Moral Science." The Church is made supreme in all matters of opinion and of usage; and the progress of national intelligence is frowned on merely because the "high philosophy" has in some instances made it a vehicle of error. It is also painful to find Dollinger, one of the leaders of the advancing party in the Roman Church, publishing the most erroneous views of the Protestant Churches. I read lately his account of the Free Church of Scotland, and the reasons of the disruption in the Northern Establishment, with no little surprise when I knew that the author must have had under his hand at the time, the sketches of D'Aubigne, and the short but clear treatise of the talented Chaplain to his Prussian Majesty, the perusal of which would have removed at once all his fears of rebellion against the State, and of anarchy within the Church. Nevertheless, all these are hopeful symptoms. There is a tide in all things, and the world "moves still." The "Evangelical Alliance" has done much good, and will do still more, by bringing Protestants of all denominations together; by diffusing correct information regarding the real state both of the Popish and of the Reformed Communities; and in discriminating between the lesser matters on which men may lawfully differ, and the grand elements of that "faith" which was "once" and forever, "delivered to the saints."

One of the most interesting views we can take of the aspect of events is that which is suggested by the late Crimean war as it is usually termed. Nothing could have been more painful to a Christian mind than the conflict between two nations so nearly related to each other by commercial ties as Great Britain and Russia; but it has pleased the Ruler of all (in this instance as in others,) to bring good out of evil. In not fewer than three remarkable instances has this already appeared; and although our reasonable expectations may have been somewhat clouded, a great era in the previously stagnant stream of Islamitish history, has been developed. In the first place, a very important change has been effected, solely by British interference, in the Mahomedan law of religious toleration; and any change to the better in the movements of the blood-stained crest of the Moslem faith, even though but partially carried out, is something as desirable as it is beyond all question, new; and if the "old sick man" shall refuse to abide by his own enactment, Britain and Christian Europe will know how to deal with him. In the second place, a demand for copies of the Sacred Scriptures, has arisen not in the city of Constantinople only, but throughout a great part of the Turkish dominions. For thirty years copies of the Scriptures in Turkish were constantly kept in the places of sale, but, very few purchases were made; now, the agents of the Bible and other societies count the sale by hundreds in a year. The Koran, from the superhuman excellencies ascribed to it by its votaries, has ever stood as the single and everlasting miracle of the prophet of Mecca, and every Moslem was taught to look down on our Bible with ineffable contempt. It is not so now; and the eagerness on the part of the Turks to obtain even for payment, copies of the New Testament as a whole, and of the Gospels singly, has cheered the hearts of the British and American Missionaries, and led them to seek the cause of it, in a direct influence from on high. In the third place, the instances of genuine conversion from Islamism to Christianity, have been numerous and well attested. Numbers of converts have been received into the Church by baptism, and one of them is known and esteemed as a faithful and active Minister of the Gospel. Twelve centuries have rolled away since the