

WESLEYAN METHODIST MAGAZINE

OF CANADA.

NOVEMBER, 1862.

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, &c.

Attention is called to the war so violently raging in the States of the hitherto prosperous Union, and to the causes, which, in the order of the divine government, may have led to it, not to point the finger of reproach at a people with whom we have many and tender bonds of connection; but rather to gather some of those important lessons of instruction which they are calculated to teach us. "To err is human," is as true as any of those uninspired aphorisms which are upon the lips of almost every moralizer of the day; a recollection of which should check every rising of self-gratification, as we notice the more recent aberrations and failures of our neighbours. That the American people have erred, and that, grievously, may be naturally inferred from the severe chastisement to which they are now being subjected. Nor need any object to this conclusion, although they may not be quite agreed with us in judgment, as to what have been the causes of such a visitation. We have intimated two of those causes. The first, viz., Slavery, is we apprehend, very generally admitted. Many refer to it from inductions of a strictly political character. It does not appear from anything we have been able to gather from their observations, that such a subject is likely to have any influence on the movements of the great ruler of nations. There are many, alas! who look at secondary causes as seldom, if ever, to consider the existence of the great-first cause: from such we need not expect nothing directly designed to aid the judgment in such investigations as we are now pursuing. It is sufficient, however, for our purpose that they admit Slavery to be a political influence in the fierce and sanguinary strife, and it remains for the Christian student of providence to take such admission and carry it to its proper point. From not a few Americans the admission is made, that behind a question, pride of the greatness and prosperity of their nation, has been their great and growing sin. No difficulty is experienced in obtaining from such the acknowledgement, that their progress in the past, and their prospects in the future have produced fruit unseemly to man,