

study the history of the world, the more evidence we will see of the great truth, that the righteous ruler of the universe is in the arrangement of his Providence, awarding just retribution to nations according to their deeds.

We know too that oppression is a sin which has in past ages brought down severe punishment. God said of his ancient people, "They shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and they shall afflict them four hundred years, and also *that nation, whom they shall serve will I judge.*" And now in the fearful events we are considering, we may hear God saying to the American people, "Behold the hire of your labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud crieth, and the cries of them that have reaped have entered into the ears of the Lord God of Sabaoth." "If I did despise the cause of my man servant, or of my maid servant, when they contended with me; what then shall I do when God riseth up? And when he visiteth, what shall I answer him? Did not he that made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?"

Of course the guilt of slavery rests especially upon the South. But when we consider the more favoured circumstances of the people of the North and particularly that they were not, like the people of the South, under those influences of self-interest and early training, which blind the moral perceptions even of good men, their complicity with slavery was the less excusable, and involved heavy guilt before the righteous judge of all the earth. Hence while the chief suffering in the present war must fall on the South, we might have expected that the North should not be exempt from the scourge. Accordingly in the death of so many of her sons on the gory battlefield or the pestiferous camp—in so many weeping widows and orphans—in the derangement of her trade, with its consequent suffering to multitudes—and the tremendous national debt which we have seen estimated on good authority, as amounting already to over a thousand millions of dollars, she is being made to receive the reward of her fatal tenderness toward slavery. Having sown the wind, she is reaping the whirlwind.

In the present case it is specially instructive to notice, that slavery has been the direct cause of all the present troubles. We do not say that the present is a war on the part of the North for emancipation. We take the war, as all intelligent Americans represent it, as simply a war for the Union under the Constitution. But what has imperilled the Union and the Constitution? No intelligent man on either side hesitates to assert that it is slavery. And if so then may we not see in this another fulfilment of the divine word, "Thine own wickedness shall correct thee and thy backsliding shall reprove thee."

Sad as these events are, it is pleasing to see the indications already appearing, that the present war is being overruled by God for the destruction of that evil system. Slavery can never regain its power in the general government, and the public sentiment of the North is roused to resist its encroachment and abolish it where and when practicable under the Constitution.—Already in the liberty gained by so many slaves in the track of the Northern armies, in the abolition of slavery in the district of Columbia, and in the emancipation project of President Lincoln, we see the commencement of a policy, which in the event of the success of the Federal arms, must within a reasonable time lead to the utter extinction of slavery. But we would regard the result as no less certain, should the South gain their independence. With a border line of more than 1000 miles long bounding a free territory, it would be impossible to retain slaves in bondage, except in the more southerly of the slave states, while in these latter the progress in number of the