

AN ADDRESS TO THE CHURCHES,

ON THE

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

DELIVERED BY THE REV. J. DRUMMOND,

AT THE

EIGHTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION.

1 Chron., xii. 32.—*The children of Issachar were men that had understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do.*

CHRISTIAN BRETHREN,

The times in which our lot is cast are acknowledged on all hands to be peculiar and eventful. There are causes now in operation—civil, social and religious—which are adequate to the production of prodigious effects, and which, in the all wise Providence of God, may be greatly beneficial, or deplorably adverse, to the well being of man.

Every successive period of time brings with it a peculiar posture of affairs, and its own circumstances in human society. In these varying circumstances, the people of God have especial duties to discharge, and peculiar dangers to avoid. Our churches are summoned of God, in the present day, to be witnesses for the truth, and to testify before the world on behalf of the simple, spiritual, and heavenly character of the kingdom of Christ, and in respect of its outward support, establishment and extension in the world. We are required to persevere in maintaining our testimony against long established abuses. We must continue to contend for the primitive simplicity of the Church, for the voluntary support of religion, and for the application of the authority of the new Testament, to determine every question relating to the faith, worship, order, and discipline of God's House.

It was much to the honor of the tribe of Issachar that they were distinguished above all the other tribes in discerning the signs of the times, and in a prudent and practical acquaintance with what was expedient to be done in critical and trying circumstances.

They were men of intelligence and prudence; consequently, they