

AN OLD STORY.—Channing, some fifty years ago, wrote as follows, concerning Calvinism:—

“Calvinism, we are persuaded, is going to give place to better views. It has passed its meridian, and is sinking to rise no more. It has to contend with foes more formidable than theologians, with foes from whom it cannot shield itself in mystery and metaphysical subtilities—we mean with the progress of the human mind, and with the progress of the spirit of the gospel. Society is going forward in intelligence and society, and of course is leaving the theology of the sixteenth century behind it.” And again: “We think the decline of Calvinism one of the most encouraging facts in our passing history.”

Others indulge in similar prophesyings, but unfortunately the foe they dread still lives and flourishes and extends its sway. The growth of Unitarianism for the past fifty years is veritable retrogression, as compared with Presbyterianism. Some sanguine critics of Calvinism gratify themselves by declaring that the hated system is dead—is given up by everybody.—The truth appears to be that the Calvinistic type of Christianity is more vigorous and aggressive than ever before. It is good for the world that it should be so. We do not mean the odious caricatures of excited critics, or even the extreme view of extreme advocates. We mean the system which gives due recognition to the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man.—*P. W.*

REMARKABLE ANSWER TO PRAYER.

—We announced last Saturday a meeting of Christians to pray for rain, at 4.30 p. m. on that day. There had been since the first of the month only about an inch and a half of rain, and the crops that had been started by the June rains

were in danger of perishing. Those who attended the meeting had scarcely come together before it began to rain, and while the prayers were offered the rain came down in torrents, so that the voices of the speakers could scarcely be heard; and some who had attended the meeting found it difficult to get away. Since then we have had a good fall of rain, not merely in Bombay, but in many parts of the Presidency. On Sunday there were showers at Belgium, Kalopoor, Satara, and on Monday at Poona and the neighborhood; in Guezerat also and the Central Provinces rain has fallen copiously. The want of rain is still felt in some parts of the Decan we believe, and especially in the Madras Presidency. Prayer should be continued.—*Bombay Guardian* for July 21.

THE WAR PROSPECTS.—The latest news from the field of war in Bulgaria fully confirms the view we have already expressed, that a second campaign is inevitable. The days during which military operations on a large scale may be undertaken are rapidly diminishing; the sufficient reinforcement—if not the reorganization—of the Russian armies cannot be accomplished, and the strength of the Turkish resistance broken, during the remainder of the season. Mr. Forbes, who wrote, in advance of the second attack on Plevna, that a repetition of the former assault in front would be an inconceivable, a fatal blunder, now estimates the Russian loss in making that very blunder at not less than 20,000 men. The positions at the Shipka Pass and on the eastern line of the Russian occupation are still precarious, and the situation has become so critical that Serbia is reported to be reconsidering her decision to take part in the war. We leave out of the calculation the success of the Montenegrins, as they cannot yet seriously affect the fortunes of either combatant in the great struggle.—*New York Tribune.*