

## THE LAST DECADE.

The newly finished decade was ushered in with hopes of a long continuing peace. It was supposed by the "Peace Party," who held a convention at Frankfort, that all nations would be willing to submit their causes of quarrel to arbitration, and that in future the difficulties of states would be settled without any appeal to arms. The experience of the ten years previous had been decidedly opposed to such suppositions. Britain had sent two expeditions against the "Celestials," had experienced bloody disaster in the mountainous Afghan country, and in the valleys of the Punjaub had waged a successful war against the Sikhs, the most warlike of all the tribes of India. Continental Europe had surged with a revolutionary tempest, not perhaps of so wild a character as had been seen heretofore, but one which had been felt much more widely. In America, also, a Mexican war had been witnessed on the Northern continent, and in the Southern, much turmoil had existed.

Still it was fondly supposed that the fifties were to be dedicated to peace. All nations were to flock together to the world's metropolis, to pay their adorations to this new deity in a "Crystal Temple" there to be erected. The wonderful enchanted palace rose in grandeur. From all lands people of every hue and race came to show their productions and to become acquainted with each other. Peace, after such a fraternal meeting, must become the general wish, and rivalry exist in arts and industry alone. A Manchester millennium had dawned upon the world. *Punch* of that day, said, that some of the "Peace Party" were afraid of annoyance from sparrows in the temple itself, and that the "Iron Duke" advised hawks as a proper remedy for sparrows. Hawks were procured, and a hawk of that day has become an eagle and a wondrous one in this. In a short time, and appearing as a proper sequence to this peace-worship, the warrior—the representative man of the first half of the century, demanded a burial from a nation, and received one, commensurate with its gratitude and his fame. "Waterloo day," argued the Peace Party, "should no more be noticed, as such a rejoicing

for the restoration of peace, is really an incentive to war." A Napoleon had accepted the presidential chair of republican France, and ruled her destiny—review powder might offend him, and he was considered a peace man.

Nature herself however attacked the peace maxims. Asiatic Cholera traversed Europe, and visited America, spreading terror and desolation over all, showing that the war-spirit still pervaded the very air we breathe. "The Autocrat of all the Russias" next disturbed the public tranquillity. The wayward man was visited by a deputation of doves from Manchester, who expected to be able to show him the extreme folly of strife. Strange to say, Alma, Inkerman, Balaclava, and Sebastopol proved much more successful advocates than the "peace at any price" disciples. Persia also required to be informed that this is a world of constables, and received that information at Bushire.

Material prosperity was still advancing. Telegraphs and railroads were fast increasing and were even following armies to battle. Gold fevers and the consequent shiftings of population, brought fine ships a market. Sydenham Palace was built as a receptacle for wonders in nature, in science and in art. Submarine telegraphs were successfully laid in European waters. The question was eagerly asked: "Can the two worlds, old and new, be connected?" A cable was prepared and successfully laid. Some few words had passed between the continents more quickly than the earth can spin on her axis, when the line was snapped. Still this was the feat of the decade.

Skill and capital were next employed on the Great Eastern. Piece by piece rose this majestic monster of the deep. "A new era in naval architecture has begun," said the sanguine. After many difficulties overcome, both in labour and finance, the modern ark swings at her moorings, proved manageable and explosive. Her trials will belong to the new decade.

While every one watched with great interest these accessions to the world's wealth, Delhi echoed and re-echoed murder shouts. A giant rebellion had begun, more wide-spread and terrible than any that the British power had