



The Protestant Review.

VOL. III.

MARCH, 1870.

NO. 3

BACKWARD OR FORWARD.

There are only two ideas that can be fairly entertained by thinking people as to the future of this country—we must either go backward or forward with the work of legislation. By the term “backward” we do not mean retrogression in the sense of re-adopting a policy that had been found erroneous, injurious, and unworthy of support; but rather returning to the good old paths of Christian principle from which we had most unwisely departed. Thus, to go backward would be in reality to advance in the right road to prosperity, happiness, and peace.

Well, if we do not go backward this way we must go forward in the other. “Forward” here, however, may be a deceptive word, inasmuch as it means, practically, a return to the rejected policy of past times, which had been proved to be pernicious and deadly.

In a word, we must take the

Bible for our guide, and act in accordance with its precepts, as in former times, or we must sink, as a nation, into a position of anarchy and misery,

There can be no real progress apart from Christianity; and, as the nation seems desirous to sacrifice that, we cannot look forward to any but disastrous consequences as the result of such unfaithfulness to truth.

The disgrace and, we will add, the iniquity of legislation, on the principle that there is no God, who deals with nations as such, or that, if He exists, the nation is not to care about Him, would be infinitely greater in the case of England than of any other kingdom or government; because God has, in an especial manner, blessed and prospered her during the very time when she asserted and maintained His laws as obligatory alike on Sovereigns and people. To make