

lodged deeper in the soul than the love of gain. The loss of property by these disasters has been enormous, and the loss of life immense and appalling. The "wail of sorrow on the sea" has called a long echo of sorrow from the land. The sad experiences of this year forcibly appeal to us to reconsider the conditions of our safety and success upon the ocean.

The departing year, then, has shown us grim-visaged and bloody war convulsing Europe. It has shown us the barbarous institution of slavery breaking down the barrier which marked its bounds in America. It has shown us these things to modify any too sanguine expectations which we might cherish with respect to the progress of civilization in this nineteenth century. Our too familiar boasting on this head required some such check. In patience we must possess our souls, while we wait and work for the coming of the divine kingdom.

The departing year has shown us drought and pestilence. By the discipline of these it has been calling on us to look to God, and find our proper and permanent life in a vital union with him. It has shown us unusual disasters by sea; and, by the severe and repeated shocks it has thus administered, it has called on the busy men "that go down to the sea in ships, and do business in the great waters," to review the conditions of their safety and success there.

Historically considered, I think the departing year more notable and important than any other year since 1848. The great struggles of that year, when France was revolutionised, and Germany and Italy and Ireland internally convulsed, have been partially interpreted by the years which have followed. The great struggle of 1854 must