

to truth. So governments, when too rudely pressed by it, pander to Popery, because it is a strong and unscrupulous political power. Truth does not concern them. If it presses on their party, it annoys them. All this has an evident tendency—the giving power to superstition as long as governments hold their own, but when human will grows too strong, a breaking up of all that, and the destruction of the whole system. A well-known specimen of this has been seen in the French revolution of 1789.

If we turn to America, to what (to many) would be the most attractive part of the new world, what do we see? Large profession and religious activity, but the churches the great promoters of the dreadful conflict now going on ;* Christians more worldly than the world ; money supreme in influence ; and the world, save as partially prohibited by law, overrun with drunkenness, pre-eminent in profane swearing, and demoralized by the corruptions which follow the absence of family habits. Intelligence, activity, energy, education reign there. None of the supposed hindrances of the old world exist there. No one can have been there and not have seen in that immense country the amazing development of human energy ; but, morally, what is the spectacle it affords ?

The world, then, has been evil from its origin, for the horrors of idolatry cannot be denied.

* Written during the war in United States, in 1862.