

the race, no lesson is more clearly taught, than that God, by his providence, is reconciling the world unto himself. Infinite power and wisdom hold the reins of universal government, and are guiding the nations, as a skilful rider guides his steed, along the path of progress, to that glorious consummation, where the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever.

This great truth is clearly apprehended and distinctly taught in Dr. Peck's *History of the Great Republic*. Never was the hand of God more clearly seen than in the birth and development of that nation. Its cradle was rocked, its infancy fostered, and its maturity blessed, by Christian principle. We may apply the language of Scripture, and say, "God brought a vine out of Egypt; He cast out the heathen, and planted it." And during the marvellous progress of that nation, no religious influence has been more potent than that of the Methodist Church, and nowhere have the numerical, financial, and spiritual triumphs of that Church been more marked. But in no portion of American History has Divine Providence been more signally apparent than in the travail throes of the Great Rebellion, out of which a new and nobler era of human liberty has been born. By that dread baptism of suffering and of blood the foul stain of human slavery—the sum of all villainies—has been blotted out from her escutcheon for ever.

Well might Whittier, the poet of the slave, exclaim:—

Did we dare,
In our agony of prayer,
Ask for more than He has done?
When was ever God's right hand,
Over any time or land,
Stretched as now beneath the sun?

In a tone of fervid eloquence the history of the nation is recorded in this volume, and the lofty moral that it teaches is enforced. While

imbued with the spirit of intensest patriotism, there is a conspicuous absence of that self-assertion and vain-glorious boasting which mars too much of American literature. The dangers that menace American institutions, the plague spots in the body politic, are noted, and their antidote is pointed out. A spirit of the largest liberality to other countries, and other political systems, prevail. With respect to ourselves, his words are full of kindness and good feeling. He gives no countenance to the scandalous and impertinent Monroe doctrine, which finds such blatant advocates in many of the shallow demagogues, editorial and legislative, who form the public opinion of the ignorant classes of the nation. "Our influence," he says, "over the government of the western continent must not be that of overshadowing greatness, but of magnanimous, fraternal kindness. To the nations of Europe we must present an example of liberal opinions, sustained by firm integrity and high-souled international right. How utterly unworthy of the Great Republic would be airs of superiority in strength or wisdom! How much have we yet to learn from other nations? How long shall we have reason to dig in their mines of greater antiquity? And how much that is great and true in the liberty-loving millions of the Old World will demand our recognition?"

While such sentiments as these continue to animate the educated and religious classes of America, whose influence will more and more mould the public opinion of the nation, we need not fear the interruption of her friendly relations to ourselves, to Great Britain, and the great powers of Christendom. Rather may we augur the firmer knitting of the golden bonds of amnity, their only rivalry being one of hallowed zeal for the glory of God and welfare of man.

Those who wish to study from the heights of a Christian philos-