

at what is passing in China,—if we watch the struggle into which the Ottoman power, the centre of Islamism, is now plunged,—and if we trace, at the same time, so far as is permitted to us, the delineations of prophetic hands in pages referring to the changes of the world,—we cannot fail, with all this varied combination before our eyes, of subjects for reflection, to frame auguries of a grand and thrilling interest, for some approaching development of the destinies of the Church of God. Nor can we, in the opening, in particular to *English and American* enterprise, of long unsuspected treasures in the bowels of the earth, (whatever evils may, for the moment, attend the discovery of gold,) fail to note a powerful impulse given from the hand of God, to the dispersion over remote regions of the globe, of men springing from the two branches of one remarkable stock. * And we may contemplate under the same aspect, other and marked causes which lend a stimulus, specially in the same two quarters, to travel and adventure,—verifying the words that *many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased*. Have we, then, any special duty to perform in connection with this survey of things? My Reverend brethren, it is, in my apprehension, very evident that we should lead our people to such solemn contemplations, when we see them backward, and that in other instances we should endeavor to guide, to moderate, to repress their too eager and unchastised enquiries, their too precipitate adoption of theories and expositions which may be thrown in their way. We ought to apply for our own use, and teach others to apply for theirs, the reproachful question of the Saviour: *How is it that ye do not discern this time?* and the instruction of His Apostle: *We have also a more sure word of prophecy whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as to a light that shineth in a dark place*. But we ought, at the same time, to cultivate in ourselves a watchful sense of those warnings which are addressed to us in the word of God against an impatient and presumptuous spirit of interpretation, in the application of prophecy to the passing events of the world. We ought to steer clear alike of an inert indifference or a

* The *auri sacra fames* would seem thus, in its *indirect effects*, to take the character of *sacra* in the more ordinary sense, as well as in that which it bears in the words of Virgil.