

1. See how God touches again and again the springs of trade and commerce: see how the pride of wealth is humbled in the dust; see how man is made to learn that God has something to do even with "making money!"

2. In the track of the commercial crises of the last few years came the Great Revival, unparalleled in the history of the Church since the sixteenth century. Union prayer meetings, world wide concerts for prayer, wonderful manifestations of love and cordiality among different denominations of Christians are among the most delightful accompaniments and effects of this glorious outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

3. Civil liberty is extending: Within two years, more than fifteen millions of Italians have risen to the dignity of free men. Russia has emancipated many millions of serfs. The Emperor of the French is making concessions to his subjects; and even the grim and cruel tyranny of Austria is giving way. These civil changes are of interest to us now as they lead to the diffusion of the Gospel. Evangelical Christianity keeps pace with civil liberty. Never were Bible Societies, Tract Societies, Missionary Societies, so extensively and energetically engaged as at this moment. The great revival came upon the American and British Churches in time to quicken them so as to rush eagerly into the fresh fields opened for evangelistic labour.

4. All the great nations of the earth are in trouble and perplexity. Even our own peaceful and happy Empire is not quite at ease. The din of preparation for war—war—war is loud in every part of Europe; and such being the case Britain cannot be at rest. The neighbouring Republic, long boastful of its wealth, freedom, intelligence and power is now apparently in the agonies of dissolution. Treason in its forts, treason in its ships, treason in its Senate, treason in the Cabinet and in the bosom of its President, no wonder that the heart of the citizen is failing him for fear. Satan seems to have come down in great wrath to trouble the nations. Does not this indicate that his time is short? He feels his throne tottering in heathen and Mohammedan and Papal lands, and hence his violent efforts to distract and weaken, and if possible destroy the countries where the light of the Gospel shines most refulgently.

5. Mark the heavy strokes that have fallen in quick succession on the fated head of Antichrist! His civil power has been wrested from his grasp—his armies have been disgracefully beaten—his curses have been hurled back into his teeth, and his excommunications treated with contempt. He who once yoked monarchs to his car is now a mendicant knocking for charity at every door in Christendom. His last allocution betrayed at once his weakness and his wickedness, consisting as it did of moanings mingled with maledictions, and fanatical promises set off by impotent threatenings. The Papacy is trembling to its fall. The word of God has free course in Italy, within sight even of the gates of Rome.

6. The Empire of Mohammed is equally involved in distress with the Papacy itself. Ruin threatens it on every side, from without and from within. It is emphatically "sick" and the hour of its death is near at hand.

7. Then think of the great Chinese Rebellion—the millions of earnest iconoclasts that are now destroying the old idolatry root and branch, and that are themselves not altogether unacquainted with the religion of the Bible. This movement taken in connexion with the results of the late war, must be regarded as one of the most remarkable "signs of the times."