

Christianity. The nineteenth century is not unlike that proud king, who for seven years under the form of a man, carried in his breast the heart of a beast. The spirit of this century is not sufficiently permeated with Christ to offer in itself, and apart from other controlling influences, any solid guarantee for the prevalence, in our day, of unbroken peace in Europe.

It is a startling fact that the very men that know best the heart of European politics are the men (we refer to Bismark, Disraeli, Manning, Gladstone) who have been the foremost to tell us recently that they see gathering on the great sea, signs of an impending storm of great magnitude. Their opinion is worthy of great weight; but the question for private Christians is to ask, "Whether their opinion is sustained by the Word of the Living God?" Does the Bible throw any light on our position and prospects at this stage of the world's history? It is not our intention to try to answer this question by reference to the Book of Revelation, where we find an epitome of the Church's history given us to the end of time, further than to say that it would seem from Rev. xvi. 17-21, that the final destruction of Papal Rome is to be attended with great civil and political commotions. Unwilling to enter further on the answer given by PROPHECY to the question as to whether it is peace or war that lies before us in the near future, we prefer to turn to the PRINCIPLES of God's moral Government, laid down in his Word, and exemplified in the history of nations.

He has read history with a careless eye who has not perceived that all the great eras of the world's progress have had their birth in conflict, anguish, and sorrow. "It is with the Church," (says one of our most judicious writers on Prophecy — Rev. Robert Fleming,) "as with particular

Christians who are often sorely buffeted by Satan, and sometimes brought even to extremities by temptations, but do ever carry the victory at last . . . But the darkest time of the night ushers in the dawning of the Church's day in the usual way of God's Providence over the same." It was amid voices and thunders, and lightnings, that the Church came out of the land of Egypt to the liberty of the promised land; amid scenes somewhat similar, it came out of the bondage of Judaism to the liberty of Christ; in a similar manner it escaped from the crushing tyranny of the Roman imperialism to its supremacy in Europe; while three hundred years ago it again passed through throes of great wars in regaining the light of Reformation doctrines, and liberty.

There can be no manner of doubt that the Church of Christ is on the eve of a great triumph. We are approaching one of the great eras, or epochs, of the world's history. In all likelihood we are on the threshold of a triumph greater than that from Egypt, or that from Judaism, or that from Imperialism, or that from Traditionalism. We are on the eve of the time foretold in Scripture, when from the rising of the sun to its going down, Christ's name should be known and revered; and the question that meets us is this one, "Is this era to be ushered in amid 'voices, and thunders, and lightnings?' as were the other great eras of the Church's history?" All the reply we dare give is, That there are many indications—chief of which stands the ambitious and reactionary policy of the Church of Rome—indications that are filling with deep anxiety the hearts of European statesmen—that the sword will once more leap from its scabbard,—that blood will flow like water in the final appeal, ere anti-Christian nations and false religions will give up their unequal contest with Him who is head