

the spirit of freedom pervades the earth, will popery be rejected where it exists, and its extension be opposed where it exists not.

The last of the causes which we shall name is the rapidly increasing and extending influence of Protestantism. It is true that, since the Reformation, Protestantism has not done for the nations all that, under other circumstances, it would have done. It has not converted France. But why? Let the murders of St. Bartholomew's Day and the awful butcheries which succeeded the revocation of the Edict of Nantes answer. It has not converted Italy. But why? Let the history of the Reformation in Italy answer. It has not converted Spain. But why? Let the history of the Inquisition answer. It has not converted the masses of Ireland. But why? Let the awful Irish massacre of 1641, instigated by the priests, and the bitter prejudices they have kept alive since among the people answer. Popery, in its treatment of Protestants has become the synonyme of inhumanity.

Nor has Protestantism done what it might. In some countries it has been encumbered with state connections—in others it has declined from the true faith—in others it has lost its first love—in all it has been too neglectful of its great mission, which is to Christianize and civilize the world. But a brighter day has risen upon it.

Yet Protestantism reckons as its followers nearly one half the number that popery claims as its adherents. And although numerically one half less, in all the great elements of character and progress it is vastly its superior. In wealth, in enterprise, in rational liberty, in literature, in commerce, in all the elements of political and moral power, Protestants are to papal nations as the sun and moon in the heavens are to the fixed stars. That you may see this, blot from the map of Europe all that it owes to Protestantism, and what is left for the people to desire? Blot from those nations all that they owe to popery, and it would be like Moses lifting up his wonder-working rod heavenward, and rolling back the darkness that enshrouded Egypt. If this does not picture our idea, stop for a month or a year all that Protestantism is doing to civilize, enlighten, and bless the earth, and the world is moved and astounded from its centre to its circumference; even old Austria, the Sleepy Hollow of the world, would spring to her feet and ask, What is the matter? Stop for the same time all that popery is doing for the same ends, and it would be no more missed than is the light of the lost pleiad from the sky.

What means that wakening attention in all civilized states to the education and elevation of the people? What means that restless anxiety observable even in the most petrified of papal states to obtain natural rights, which causes hoary error to shake its head with holy horror? It shows the advancing influence of Protestantism.