

The Wise Man had seen this in his day, but to no period are his words more applicable than to these latter days of the XIX<sup>th</sup> Century : " I have seen the trouble, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made all things good in their time, and hath delivered the world to their consideration, so that man cannot find out the work which God hath made from the beginning to the end." (Eccles. iii, 10, 11).

Now, if there be one characteristic more than another by which the lapsing century may be distinguished, it is this very pride of intellect with its long train of moral evils. If it has built up a magnificent temple to material progress, it has strewn the world during its ten decades with many a ruin, it has sapped the fundamental principles necessary for the orderly advance of peoples in their onward march towards the goal marked out for them by the Divine Ruler of nations ; while one of its most grievous offences has been to wantonly destroy in the minds of no small portion of mankind the respect due to authority.

Revolutionists have shaken the thrones of kings in the name of the *Rights of Man* ; socialists have invalidated the mild but all-necessary rule of parents ; the champions of godless science have set at naught the power of God Himself. Close on the vagaries of theorists have come the jeers of scoffers ; and the scurrilous sarcasm of those " who, lest they be constrained to weep are ever ready to deride " has sullied what even sophistry had left untouched.

Neither God nor master ! Such has been the cry of the century ; while those who must bend their unwilling necks to the yoke — that is to say the great bulk of mortals — vent their spite as best they may against those to whom they must needs show submission if they would live. " They have all gone aside, they have become unprofitable together . . . the poison of asps is under their lips . . . Destruction and unhappiness in their ways : and the way of peace they have not known : there is no fear of God before their eyes" (Ps. xiii, 3).