

when the fighting ground is as an inflammation of the lung or a congestion of the brain, or a cancer of the throat; when all recuperative and defensive forces are rallied in vain, when death strikes the system and ruin comes down upon the body politic, the common-wealth. History has given us such crises in nations; and we have seen great Powers broken in pieces by dashing themselves in concentrated energy upon a grand consolidated resistance, as the proud wave hurls itself with violence upon the rock-bound shore, but to be driven back in flying squadrons to the troubled deep. And we have seen the lofty resistance swept away before the advancing hosts as mounds of sand yield to the tempests of the sea. Annapolis, Louisbourg, Quebec, are monuments of the indomitable energy of Britons—first to attack and capture, and then to maintain and defend. And now, those conquerors and defenders over all the expanse of a continent are reaping the fruits of their valour. The plough, the shovel, the loom, have taken the place of the cannon, the musket, the sword. The mill, the store, the factory, the railway and telegraph; the school, the court and the church are showing why so broad and so good a land was given to Protestantism and Anglo-Saxon civilization.

These musings amid monuments, these quiet reflections induced by silent mementoes of turbulent times almost inadvertently turned upon ecclesiastical and theological domains and developments; for in the world of mind and the conflict of opinion in the moral realm and in intellectual and spiritual advancement of the race, and especially of the Church of God, there would seem to be some characteristics and manifestations not unlike the events of political history and the subjugation of wild tracts to culture, prosperity and law. For in both cases it is bringing the lawless and disobedient, the rude and uncultivated, the dark and unproductive, the hidden and unknown, into the light, life and favour of a higher, nobler energy; into obedience to a divine principle and rule—the greatest good of man and the greatest glory of God.

The Church has had her polemical age, her time of conflict and her fighting doctrines. She has had her forts and battlements and towers on the coasts of the continents of Truth. We speak of the Church in her spiritual incorporation, the Body of Christ, the true people of God that have possessed and exercised all the truth of God that was known in their era, and have stood up for what they possessed. The sounds of battle