

faithfullest ally in the heir of Napoleon Bonaparte in a mighty struggle of nations in which the most precious interests of Great Britain are at stake.

The stirring historic recollections associated with the theatre of this war—the power and renown of the combatants—and the mighty interests involved in its issues, fix the attention of all men upon it. What will be the results?—is an enquiry upon every tongue. I do not address myself to this question in the light of prophecy; I shall not attempt to expound the mysterious symbols of the Apocalypse, or to interpret the dark, the sacred dreams of Daniel;—I am incompetent to the task. I am familiar with the theories of the principal schools of prophetic interpretation. I dare not say that none of these have guessed the meaning of the sublime visions of the ancient seers in regard to the grand outline, or some of the most prominent features of the dimly-shadowed course of Divine Providence; but I have no assurance that even the first principles of their systems are correct. And although many learned and holy men have specially devoted themselves to the study of sacred Prophecy; and some of them have produced works exhibiting much learning and great ingenuity, and which, as intellectual productions, command respect,—yet no department of Biblical science has been more crowded than the walk of Prophetic Interpretation with vain, self-sufficient and frenzied pretenders to a knowledge of unravelled mysteries—pretenders whose loud-sounding dogmatism has been clamorous and imperious in proportion as it has been accompanied by a logic that dispensed with all the rules of philosophical induction—that was bold in unsupported assertions—that in trivial coincidences saw undoubted corroboration, and in fanciful analogies, irrefragable evidence. I mean not by this that the Christian believer should not prayerfully study the