

perceptible in the beginning; and it requires careful observation and attentive consideration to weigh the probable operation, and anticipate the coming results of such influences. There is one mark made by good and observant minds at the present time. It is, the manifest reluctance, the earnest disinclination of men to engage in strife and warfare. So strong, indeed, was this feeling, and so protracted were the negotiations entered into for the purpose of averting, if possible, the present contest, that many of the more impatient thought the thing was carried too far, and even to the verge of impropriety, so as even to risk unduly the honour of this nation. Is there not in this fact a pleasing and encouraging promise of good? May not the Christian mention it before God as a plea in favour of his beloved country at this juncture of its affairs?

We were struck and interested, the other day, while reading the life of the venerable Mr. Jay, to find him giving this testimony of the improvement and progression of things during his lifetime. "I have," he says, "a better opinion of mankind than I had, when I began my public life. I cannot, therefore, ask, 'What is the cause why the former days were better than these?' I do not believe in the fact itself. God has not been throwing away duration upon the human race. The state of the world *has* been improving and is improving. What noble efforts are made, in this day, to break every yoke, and let the oppressed go free! How is the tendency to war on every slight pretext, giving way to reference and negotiation! . . . I cannot look at these various progressions without exclaiming, 'What hath God wrought!'" Our venerable friend proceeds to say that, when he first went to London, there were no missionary societies, but those of the Moravian and Wesleyan brethren; "nor had we then that noblest of all institutions since the apostolic era, the Bible Society, nor the Tract Society, nor the Anti-Slavery or Peace Societies, nor the many other hundred institutions which are, at present, all sending forth the truth as it is in Jesus—all carrying on their operations with prayer, all crowned with encouragement and success, proportioned to the means and endeavours."

In harmony with these hopeful opinions, are many things which a good man may hail as the legitimate results of such labours. There are not wanting these indications even in the current, weekly literature of the day; a different and more modified tone is adopted. Courtesy and mutual forbearance among those who meet each other on the field of contest are recommended and prac-