

and the signs of the times have not been strangely misread, is to come upon the Christian Church throughout the Christian world.

Would to God that I could hope to see the Church in the Diocese of Virginia arouse herself, and rise to the dignity of her position, and meet the measure of her responsibility in this crisis of her history. That the present is a crisis in her history and in the history of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this country, no one, it seems to me, can honestly question. The movement of Bishop Cummins is but a new phase of an old question, but a new spark from a long hidden fire, and in fact but one of the signs of the times. However the Church papers may "pooh-pooh" it, and affect to despise it, the authorities of the Church have shown, by their hasty action in the matter, how differently they think and feel about it. It is as yet, it is true, the day of small things with the movement; but what sane man, in the light of scripture, or reason, or history, will despise it on that account? When waters have been long damned up and are ready to overflow, a little child may let them out; with one of its little fingers may make a line across the dam, along which the waters will begin first to trickle, then to flow in a little stream, then to deepen and widen a channel for themselves, and in the end become a mighty and resistless torrent. And so this movement may yet be "as the letting out of waters." Certainly the Low-Church party cannot much longer maintain its present position, as one of defense and toleration in the Church; cannot much longer maintain its existence as a party of mere negations in the Church, denying baptismal theories, and denying sacrificial offerings, and denying priestly assumptions; cannot much longer afford to be wasting its time, and consuming its energy, and wearing out its spirit, in needless controversies about unscriptural words and expressions in the Prayer-book; cannot much longer be expected to go on using language which seems to teach one thing and needs to be explained to mean a very different thing, and so countenancing errors which could be cut up by the roots in a single day, effectually eradicated from the Church, by the change of a dozen words in the Prayer-book; and in a word, cannot much longer be confined in a Church which imposes such a yoke, and must and will continue to impose it, because a large majority in the Church has at length come to hold and teach, and means