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Editorial.

ARE WE ON THE EVE OF A RELIGIOUS WAR?

It is not far man can see into the future. So often have men who set up for prophets been disappointed in their predictions, that one of our wisest men has said, that "they are the safest prophets who prophesy after the event has happened." While therefore we are warned well, by the failures of others in the past, from prying with too much boldness into the future, we do not act wisely if we refuse altogether to look in that direction. There are facts in the future of the Christian Church hardly less vital to our hopes than those that lie in the past. That the church must pass through severe ordeals—that it will yet be triumphant over all opposition—that Christ will come again—that he will raise the dead—that he will advance his church to new heavens and a new earth, and consign his enemies to everlasting punishment,—these are all facts in the future, which it is the Christian's duty to ponder as much as any of the facts in the past. No mistakes made by dabblers in prophecy, no ridiculous blunders into which men have fallen, who pretend to give day and date for the great events of the future, should deter Christians from studying the signs of the times in a humble modest

way. By doing this, not one of the early Christians, we are told, perished in the destruction of Jerusalem. They studied the signs Christ gave of his coming in this awful visitation, and escaped with their lives beyond Jordan. It is a question therefore surely of importance, this one that is being freely talked of in the Parliaments, and in the press of Europe, and which stands at the head of this article, "Are we on the eve of a religious war?"

At first sight one would almost say, with angry emphasis, No! It is impossible, that in this nineteenth century such a thing should happen. "Is thy servant a dog, that he should do such things?" Is the nineteenth century so low that it could sink to the brutal business of universal war? We attach no importance, however, to this pleasing and amiable estimate of our age. "Scratch a Russian, and you will find a Tartar." The nineteenth century puts on very fine airs, and decks itself in a mantle of pride, and talks fine sentiment, but it is to be feared, that if scratched, it would reveal, beneath a Christian exterior, a considerable deal of a pagan spirit. The science of Europe is largely atheistic, the political press has in it a large infusion of infidelity, and the prevailing religion of Europe is nothing but a mixture of paganism and