

above the heathen; they have some little knowledge of the truth anciently derived from Jews and Christians, and they are benefited by it to that extent that they are called *semi-civilized*. The *Roman Catholic nations*, although they have embraced an exceedingly perverted and corrupt Christianity, have nevertheless derived so much advantage from their religion, that they have invariably become what is called *civilized*. And the *Protestant nations* have not only become *civilized*, but also what is called *enlightened*, at least so far as earthly things are concerned; for when were the arts and sciences so well understood as they are at present among the Protestant nations? When did men understand machinery and manufactures, or astronomy, geology, and chemistry, like they now very generally do in some measure among the Protestant nations?

All this progress has been made in less than two thousand years; for about two thousand years ago all the nations of the earth were heathen, with the single exception of the Jewish nation, who were a very small and apparently insignificant people; but now we have nations to represent every gradation of enlightenment and civilisation from the Protestant to the heathen. And the understanding of many Protestants and Catholics is so exercised and cultivated that they are quite capable of understanding many spiritual and heavenly things, so that many of them are even now ready to enter the kingdom of heaven by submitting themselves to God, to do his will on earth as it is done in heaven. This they cannot perform satisfactorily while mixed among the overwhelming majority of people who are not so spiritually advanced; so they will be compelled to separate themselves and become one people or nation, who will show by their deeds or actions that they "love one another," and so really and truly are the "disciples" of Jesus Christ. Thus shall "a nation be born at once," as it were: according to the prophecy, "Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought