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Miscellaneous Articles.

IF CHRIST BE THE KING OF NATIONS, WHAT THEN?

There is something provoking in the darkness thrown around that title given to our Redeemer. He is certainly worthy to be called King of Nations. His sovereignty is universal, both in the visible world and in the invisible. The Jews thought that the Messiah was to be exclusively the king of their nation, and that as such he was to subdue the Gentiles into subordination to the Jewish polity. On the contrary, the grand object of the Son of God was to gather a spiritual people out of every nation; and with a view to that object he holds and exercises his royal covenanted power over all flesh, "Head over all things to the Church, which is his body."

Well; ought all nations to know the sovereignty of Christ? It is for their interest to know it. Duty binds them to use the best means within their reach to understand the scheme and course of divine Providence. The Lord has given express commands to his Church to preach the Gospel of his supremacy to all the world, not forgetting to speak before kings, when opportunity is given. And therefore we may boldly say all nations with their rulers ought to know the sovereignty of Christ.

But the question which puzzles Christian casuists is, what is the duty of nations as such acting out their political power, when they have the means of knowing the Gospel of Christ? There is little or no difficulty found in deciding how individuals and families ought to act. They should at once receive the truth in the love of it, join the Church, and live accordingly. But what action, if any, is to be taken by the political bodies? That is the question. Let us ascertain the way in which it is to be solved and the solution of it.

We must consult the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, and his mind as finally revealed by his Holy Spirit. Because much in Moses and the prophets has ceased to be obligatory on the world, and we can