

have conquered the conquerors of the world? Far be such vainglorious boasting from us! She is the first of the nations, not *because* she enjoys these advantages; but Providence has given to her all these means of extensive and commanding influence; has blessed her for many years with all this glory, and prosperity, and power over the nations; has enabled her to rule them with a rod of iron; has broken them beneath her feet like the shivers of a potter's vessel,—because she has been, and that she may continue to be, the candlestick of His Church to the benighted world; because her irresistible armies have conquered countless provinces, and spread commerce and cultivation over trackless continents, not for vainglory, nor plunder; not for lust of dominion nor of wealth; but to uphold the cause of justice and of truth; to curb the madness of the oppressor; to support the oppressed; to diffuse over all the wide earth the blessings of true religion, and moral knowledge, and civilization, and peace. Such has been England's policy, and may it continue such to be; for so long, we may hope, she will not cease to be under the immediate protection and favour of God. But so soon as it is otherwise; so soon as she neglects to fulfil the great purpose for which this mighty power has been committed into her hands, and seeks the gratification of her own desires and her own ambition; so soon must we expect that the red right hand of the Avenger will shake His rod over all the sources of her wealth and honour; that the dismemberment of her vast empire in the east, the ruin of all her oriental riches and splendour, will at once prove and chastise the sordid and unjust motives of her policy; that her own sons, who have left her teeming shores to hew out for her a new dominion on this western continent, will throw off their allegiance and turn their eyes elsewhere for help and protection; that the glory and empire, the wealth and commerce, the huge fabric of our wonderful country, will shrink beneath the chilling spasm of epidemic ungodliness,—her gigantic strength become weakness, her pride sunk in contempt, her sun set for ever! “And many nations shall pass by, and they shall say, every man to his neighbour, Wherefore hath the Lord done this to this great city? Because they have forsaken the covenant of the Lord their God.”

Such, my brethren, as surely as God ruleth in the kingdom of men,