

maintain that not only is there no room for discouragement, but every ground for encouragement and hope.

Examine the question in the light of *inspired predictions*. These predictions announce that God intends to move by great judgments and calamities inflicted on the nations which yield themselves to Antichristian domination; and when these physical resistances are destroyed, then will the time have come to extend the institutions of the Gospel throughout the world. Benevolence, like the air, will move to fill up the vacuum. Like the light from its great fountain, it will fly to cheer the nations that sit in darkness. And having no resistance to encounter but the simple power of error, the conflict will be but momentary, and the victory complete. This also is in accordance with prophecy, for, immediately after the fall of Babylon is announced, all heaven breaks forth in ecstasy, saying, "Let us rejoice and give honour to him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready."

Once more. The *history of the past* affords ample encouragement. Let us enter on the great enterprise animated with the conviction that what man has effected by the blessing of God, he is capable, by the same potent aid, of effecting again. Here history comes in to our aid. She unfolds her records, and places before you the memories of the past. She reminds you of the time when the Papal power was paramount over all the powers and principalities of earth; and yet, as if struck by a thunderbolt from eternity, it was shivered into ten thousand atoms. The heroes of the Reformation, by whose wisdom and energy that glorious change was effected, were exposed to dangers and surrounded by difficulties to which we, their privileged descendants, are happily strangers; and we have facilities and means of usefulness of which they had no experimental knowledge. Every form of difficulty entangled them. Every kind of terror was arrayed against them. The magnitude of Papal power was almost beyond estimation. It had never failed to crush its opponents. The movements of the Albigenses had been defeated, the lips of Huss and Jerome had been sealed; and the Lollards had been prostrated beneath its gigantic strength. The world was its home. It had its altars amid the vine-clad hills of France and the barren heaths of Scotland. Its temples stood where the Druid had piled his rude stones and the Saxon had worshipped Woden. Its splendid ceremonies had charmed the senses of Northern clans, and captivated the imagination of Southern Europe. It had crowned Pepin, honoured Charlemagne, and immortalised Martel. It had decided on astronomy, and maintained the sole empire in law and politics. It was sovereign at the fireside and every mart of trade. It was a hero in every romance, and a warrior in every battle. It held the keys of heaven and earth. It was above God. Such was the Papal system when Luther appeared. And could he and his associates shake it? Armed with Divine power, they made it tremble. Its robe of scarlet was rent. The mask was torn from the face of the impostor. Faith triumphed over dogmas, knowledge vanquished superstition.

We are much more favourably situated than these fathers of the Reformation were. The light of science, the growing intelligence of the age, the spirit of inquiry now happily awakened, the diffusion of the sacred volume, the freedom of the pulpit and the press, all these advantages we have; and if we slumber over our obligations, great will be our guilt, and sad our doom in the day of the final reckoning. But we will not, and we cannot, despair. One course is alone left to us; but that course is clear. There is wisdom in pursuing it, there will be glory at its close. Give us a free Bible, a free Sabbath, and a free pulpit, and we have no fear of Rome. Anything short of these, if made our trust, would be enthusiasm; anything more, except the blessing of Heaven to give them efficacy, would be supererogation!—*The Great Conflict of the Age.*

To save one soul is worth a man's coming into the world, and richly worth the labors of his whole life.—*Burnet.*