

people would have flocked into the houses of prayer to beseech the Divine protection at a moment of public danger. But all eyes, except a very few, were turned to this earth. It was not unnatural, under all the circumstances. There was, of course, a deep interest centred in the struggle: very great issues depended upon it. On one side was clearly contemplated a disturbance of power, as it now exists in the world. A leading idea, I might say *the* leading idea of the invasion, was to bring down a great Christian empire to a lower position of power and dignity in the estimation of the world. A considerable crowd had followed the invading side, hoping that the time was come for their seeing this favourite idea realized. It is to be feared there were others who shared this wish, even while enjoying the protection of that great Christian empire. It is a wish which cannot be squared with the obligations of the Christian religion, nor is it to be found in any truly Christian breast. It is an almost invariable accompaniment to that so-called "independence" of character which prides itself on being free of the obligations of the Christian religion. It is well the two should go together; they are fitting companions, congenial in their tastes, and not unworthily mated in their objects.

But the desire to effect our ruin has been defeated, and all at once our enemies have discovered that they are very virtuous and did not intend it. Did they, then, intend the ruin of the misguided men whose object it was to work us harm? If they held their work in abhorrence why did they not tell them sooner? Why did they wait until the attempt was defeated—until it became an unsuccessful cause—before they would venture to give the least sign of disapproval? Would it not have been charity to the deluded men to have warned them of the dangerous nature of their enterprise, and to have dissuaded them from it in due time? But no; year after year preparations for this invasion of our country are allowed to be carried on openly and notoriously, and that, too, a second time, amid much public encouragement