

a city set upon a hill, which cannot be hid ;—if our brethren in other quarters, strong in the power of faith, are doing great things in the cause,—striving successfully against the tide of worldly opposition, and surmounting, in some instances, the threatening waves of trouble ; if the present conjuncture is highly critical with reference to the ecclesiastical affairs of these Provinces, and consequences of vast importance to future generations in this rising country, may depend upon the foundation now laid for the Church,—then, amidst all these incitements to vigilance and zeal, it will be required of us that we be found *with our loins girded and our lights burning, and like unto men that wait for their Lord*. And if the signs of the times appear pregnant with great events, and the astonishing advances of science, more especially in its practical application to the purposes of international communication, seem destined, in the hands of Providence, to open the way for a new and marked æra of the Gospel,—which, according to the anticipations of many religious persons, may be preceded and introduced by scenes of trial and sore tribulation in the Church,—then we are solemnly called upon, not simply as the soldiers of the Cross, but as the leaders of the battle, to *take unto us the whole armour of God*, that we *may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand*.

Having touched, however, upon the signs of the times, and the prospects of the universal Church of Christ, I feel it necessary to advert to the extreme diffidence and reverent caution with which we should pronounce upon yet unaccomplished prophecy, and indulge our speculations, too apt to lead to presumptuous error, upon the magnificent future of the Gospel victorious in the world. *It is not for us to know the times or seasons which the father hath put in his own power*. And hence I take occasion—looking