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Saturday Morning, October 13, 1849.

HR TIMES—AND PROSPECTS.

human affairs have betokened the
of an invisible, superintending Pow-
erful of human actions, and, in
instances, stamping with manifold
schemes of human sagacity—re-
have afforded this infallible sign—
range, and various, and perplexing,
the character of these occurrences,
have passed before our wondering
the heaving theatre of action! How
their nature—mysterious their de-
—startling their progress—uneas-
their issue! As a piece of compli-
cated machinery, with innumerable springs,
and motions, on a first inspection,
bewilders, so have the evolutions and
series of modern events confounded,
they have amazed, the beholder.—
and distance from the stirring scenes,
to be necessary for the avoidance of
comprehension, and the formation of an
judgment. The present, and the
to the past, will furnish prolific materi-
for the future historian both of the world
and of Church. To the one and to the
these periods have never been sur-
of importance.

atever view contemplated, the scenes
 are big with interest—especially
 religious student, who delights to trace
 of recorded prophetic announce-
 All things now indicate with un-
 decision the approach of an important
 our world's history, destined to ex-
 parallelled influence on the condition
 poets of our race. Enshrouded in
 art, as yet, with the darkness of my-
 ough of light has been let in upon
 to discover the governing Provi-
 the Most High, and the manner in
 the battling passions of men may be
 to advance the divine purposes,
 serve the interests of the universal
 our mediaeval King. The fierce
 sons of the European nations—with
 the God of holiness has been main-
 this dread controversy, on account of
 persecutions, waged against His faith-
 esses, by which they have been
 and wasted, and because of crimes
 are committed, and at present perpe-
 against the majesty of divine Truth
 at instrumentalities employed by the
 en Ruler, by which he has first sig-
 nelled his vengeance on those guilty
 and, and then, as remarkably, design-
 en a door for the wider promulga-
 this life-giving Word, which alone
 reform them from slaves of Satan in-
 to, or sons of God.

hope was indulged that this consummation was about to be speedily realized. The overthrow of long established dynasties hailed as the immediate precursor

of the setting up, on a more extensive basis, of the kingdom of peace and righteousness under the administration of the King of Zion, who is to reign till he hath put all enemies under his foot. Sanguinary, however as have been these conflicts, and as dreadful their results to individuals, families, and communities, the atrocity of these national crimes, it appears, has not yet been sufficiently expiated. Often, and it may be, severe punitive visitations, being held in reservation for some future occasion, suddenly, unexpectedly, and to the disappointment of many, the curtain has dropped upon the awful drama.

In this result, apparently disastrous to the triumph of religious liberty, we recognize the hand of Him, who is "wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working"—not necessitating, but controlling the volitions and actions of the agents, so that, whatever may be the ultimate events which shall transpire on that troublous theatre, they shall in the end accomplish his sovereign Will. In this conviction we rest with all the confidence which a recognition of the Wisdom and Power of God can inspire. The perfect rectitude of divine Providence—which though it may apparently remain for a long time regardless of the sins of Kings and Nations against the cause of His Anointed, yet fails not at the most befitting season to avenge his injured right—will be demonstrated to the confusion of enemies and to the rejoicing of friends. The mechanism by which this result shall be attained may be hidden from human sight, but its success is beyond the power of circumvention, and the possibility of failure. The springs, deep-laid, at the proper time shall be touched—and lo! war, famine, pestilence, stormy winds and tempests, will come forth to do his bidding. He can confound the wisdom of Ahithophel, and drive the diviners mad.

"Deep in unt-thorned mines
Of never-fading skill,
He treasures up his bright designs,
And works his sovereign will."

"The old order of things has been restored." "All things remain as they were." Sentiments, these, with which we do not altogether accord. The iron band of despotism may have in some degree recovered its grasp on the nations from which, by recent and rapid shocks it had been somewhat relaxed; but a spirit has been evoked which it will be impossible to Jay. Religious tyranny, supported by the civil power, may be even now employing its hatred and skill in repairing the old instruments, or forging new instruments, of oppression and torture for its victims. This will but accelerate its doom—expedite its destruction—hasten on the dreaded catastrophe. "God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God."

"His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;"

All things do not continue as they were. During these recent convulsions, the dignity of error has been seen—glitches of the truth have been obtained—the divine beauty of the true religion has passed before the astonished view—distrust of false systems of religion has been felt—great uneasiness under the intolerable weight of burdensome rites and ceremonies has been manifested—earnest longings, ardent desire for emancipation from fatal error and the enjoyment of religious liberty have been excited. All these are preparing the way of the Lord, and heralding the auspicious period

od—O may it not be far distant!—when He shall come in might and majesty to assert his claims, confound his enemies, and consume that Wicked with the spirit of his

mouth, and destroy him with the brightness of his coming."

Another scene must open upon the world. When? Where? Under what circumstances? By what instrumentalities?—These are questions on which we do not inter-
at present to offer an opinion. But that our world is to be a wide-spread theatre on which is to be fought the battle between Christ and Antichrist, truth and error,—antagonistic powers and principles,—we have no doubt. The Sacred Scriptures *reveal* the fact. The signs of the times *portend* the deepening of the conflict. Already has it been in progress—but now it increases. The interest is becoming more and more absorbing. Beyond the darkness of the present, we perceive the dawn of a brighter day, which shall increase in splendour, until its meridian blaze, diffusing wide its lustre, shall encircle with its rejoicing light an emancipated world.

Wesleyan Education.

Wesleyan Methodism, as yet, has had no Institution of her own for training those who fill the responsible office of Teachers in our Day Schools. The Church of England, and the Free Church of Scotland, have several Institutions of this kind; and the Congregational Union established one some months ago. We rejoice to see in our advertisement columns, that the people of John Wesley are also now to have one for themselves; and one which, for the completeness and efficiency of its arrangements, will be inferior to none. Accommodation will be provided in the Building, the Foundation-stone of which will be laid to-morrow, for the training of 100 Teachers in the Normal department, and for the instruction of about 1,000 Children in the Practising Schools. An undertaking more noble in its aim, and more important in its bearing on our National and Connexional interests, we as a Christian community have perhaps never commenced.

Many will be happy to say in future years that they were present at the commencement of such an enterprise.—*London Watchman Sept. 26th.*

Results of the Fast Day in England.

We are highly gratified by the numerous accounts we have received of the general and profitable observance, by the Wesleyan Methodist Societies, of Friday last, as a day of humiliation and of prayer to God, for the removal of the cholera. In some of the county towns, where fairs had been appointed by civil and ecclesiastical authorities, the Methodists had previously united with their townsmen and fellow-citizens in fasting and prayer; but, notwithstanding this, they cheerfully attended to the request of the PRESIDENT, and joined the many thousands of Methodist Christians who, on the 21st of this month, engaged in their several localities throughout the Kingdom in similar exercises. In all cases reported to us, the attendance was numerous, and the feeling deeply spiritual. In London there were in most of the Chapels, two or three sermons within the day. A most profitable service was held in City Road Chapel, on Friday morning, which commenced at half-past ten o'clock, and continued until two. The Scripture was read by the Rev. I. HOLGATE, and the people responded in the most devout and earnest manner. The Revd F. J. Johnson preached to a crowded and deeply attentive congregation, on God's warning and mercy to Nineveh. Afterwards, the Sacrament of the Lord's supper was administered by the Ministers of the City Road Circuit, assisted by several other ministers to a very large number of communicants.—In the evening of the day, as in the morning, crowded meetings were held in the Morning Chapel of City Road, for united prayer to God; and also in most other places for Divine worship belonging to Methodism in London. At Islington, the chapel of the Rev. B. S. HOLLES was borrowed for the day, and well attended at all the services. The remembrance of Friday last is grateful to thousands of our Israel in London, and to tens of thousands in the country. Alrea-

dy God has manifested his mercy to Britain by the partial withdrawal of his judgments. This will be acknowledged by all devout and sensible minds to be in answer to the united cry of his people in this kingdom, of every name; and we may reasonably hope that, before long, British Christians will have to thank and praise Him for the entire withdrawal of his desolating scourge. —*h*

Methodist School in China.

From the Advocate and Journal.

As our method of conducting schools may not be understood by all the members of our church, I will give a few items of information in reference to it. At present we have no boarding-school in the mission. From the best information we could collect, it was deemed advisable not to open a school of this kind at least for the present. In place of this we have collective *day-schools* to the scholars of which we furnish instruction gratuitously. As many of the boys are the children of parents too poor to purchase books, pens, paper, &c. for their children, we furnish to each scholar *twenty-five* cash on each *seventh* day, for this purpose. We employ a Chinese teacher to instruct the boys. This salary is *six dollars a month*. The rent of the school-room is about *twenty dollars a year*.

We have now three schools under our control. In each school there are about twenty scholars. This is as many as one teacher can attend to. The expense of one of our schools for a year is as follows: House-rent say \$20. Teacher's salary \$72, stationery for boys \$18—in all \$110. This would be the amount if all the boys attended every day; but as they are not able to do this, the money given for stationery will be less than the estimate given above. By combining school and chapel, we may obtain a school-room for less than twenty dollars. We have hitherto found one hundred dollars a year sufficient for each school. The amount, then, required to support a school of twenty scholars in China for a year, is one hundred dollars, or for each boy five dollars. Should a boarding-school be established, the probable expense of each scholar, for a year, will be thirty dollars; for a school of twenty scholars, six hundred dollars. It may be deemed best to commence a school of this kind after some time. In that case the friends of the mission will be duly advised of the fact.

With this short statement before them, we trust our friends will continue to remember the youth in their collection, in our schools, and to whom we are trying to teach the way of life.—We would commend them not only to your contributions, but also to your prayers. O if these promising boys should be soundly converted to God, and grow up with a thorough religious education, what an influence they would exert in favour of the Redeemer's kingdom! It is a blessed work to train up these heathen youth in the precepts of the Bible. May the Lord bless our infant schools in China!

Interesting Incident.

I was, yesterday, witness of an interesting episode connected with the Congress.—Some of the members conceived the happy idea of presenting to the principal of the hotel in which they lodged during the meeting, and to each of the servants, a copy of the sacred volume, as a testimony of their good wishes, and their satisfaction with their confinement.—They requested the Librarian superintendent to distribute the Volume, which he did, after a short discourse in French, in which he delineated the principle of this gift, in the opinion which many of the English, the wisest and best of that nation, have for the word of God and the ground of esteem, in the blessings of every kind which are obtained by the knowledge of its truths, and the regulation of our judgments, tempers, and means by its dictates.—Great satisfaction was manifested by the recipients of this treasure, to whom it will be, for many years, a memento of the Congress of Peace.—*Paris Correspondent of Jour. and Adv.* Augt. 30.

Influence of Romanism in France.

For the moment, the government here is the humble servant of the priests. Here is an example. At Liseux the Methodists have recently established a station. A poor woman, a Roman Catholic, converted by their ministry, very lately, on her death-bed, refused the offered services of the Roman priests, who wished to have her buried in a part of the burying ground which is appropriated to persons who have killed themselves, or who have been publicly executed! To this, however, the commissary of police would

not consent, but had the grave made in an honourable part of the graveyard. He was almost immediately removed from Lisieux, and sent to a place in which his salary is diminished, I am told, by 100 francs a year. A struggle seems imminent, and perhaps persecution. Yet there are signs of reaction against the rule of the priests, and I am convinced they can never use the power without losing it. — 16.

Theatrical Blasphemy in Paris

The character of the dramatic representations which succeed in becoming popular in a country, are, like its poetry, to be regarded as a significant index, not only of the taste, but of the moral and religious condition of the people. Tried by this test, the religious state of the Parisians must be regarded as truly deplorable. "An immense *Atlas*," says the Paris correspondent of the *Atlas*, "has been made at Ambigu by the dramatizing of Sue's *Suif Errant*, [*Wandering Jew*.] The scenery is unequalled by anything which has ever yet been put upon the stage. The novel idea of representing a frozen lake by means of glass was much applauded. Two or three of the scenes would greatly astonish an English audience; for instance, the counterfeit contortions of the last degree of cholera, and the opening of the heavens, with our Saviour sitting in judgment on mankind, would cause an *émotion* in London, while here both are regarded as the very masterpieces of dramatic effect."

Methodism, its Struggles and Prospects.

Methodism has had its struggles in New-England. In no place has it met with more violent and determined opposition. Other denominations had taken the ground before it, and some of them had been busy in the field with their overgrown Churches, fine-ware meeting-houses, and richly endowed colleges and academies. They were exceedingly bigoted, and violently hostile to every form of religion but their own. Methodism they regarded a child of the devil, and to destroy it seemed to be the object of their greatest efforts. Consequently every obstacle was thrown in the way of its success. But though last in the field, it is not the least. Small in its beginnings, but it soon gathered strength for mighty contest. Its enemies prophesied its defeat, but some of them have lived to see that they prophesied in vain. Within about fifty years it has triumphed in New-England. Now it compares favourably with any other denomination; and it may be doubted whether any other denomination is doing as much for the salvation of souls. "This is the Lord's doing, and is marvellous in our eyes."

Controversy among the Jews.

For some years past, an animated controversy has been going on among the Jews in the United States relative to the observance or neglect of ancient ceremonials. In New York and Charleston it has been especially warm. One party desires to secure freedom of action as to the matters of keeping open their stores on Saturday, and the eating of prohibited meat at coffee-houses. The opposition demand a strict conformity with all the requisitions of the Jewish creed, and non-observance of the forms and ceremonials of Jewish worship.—*Phila. North American.*

The great St. Louis Bank Defalcation.

The alleged robbery of the Bank of Missouri by Nathaniel Childs, Junior, of Saint Louis, to the amount of over \$120,000 has been circulated in almost every newspaper in the Union. Mr. Childs is a local preacher of the M. E. Church, South, and has heretofore sustained an unblemished moral character. By letters of the most reliable character, from gentlemen in St. Louis, perfectly versant with the whole affair, just received, I am happy to learn that there is now every prospect that Mr. Childs will be *wholly acquitted* from any participation in this astounding robbery of the Bank. This will not be more gratifying to the immediate relatives and friends of Mr. Childs than to the community generally, who, both here and in St. Louis, deeply sympathize with him in his unprecedented affliction.—*Cincinnati Correspondent of the Ch. Ad. & Journal.*

The above account, with Mr. Child's name in full, as a *Methodist Preacher*, has gone the rounds of our Provincial Papers. It is to be hoped that those who gave currency to