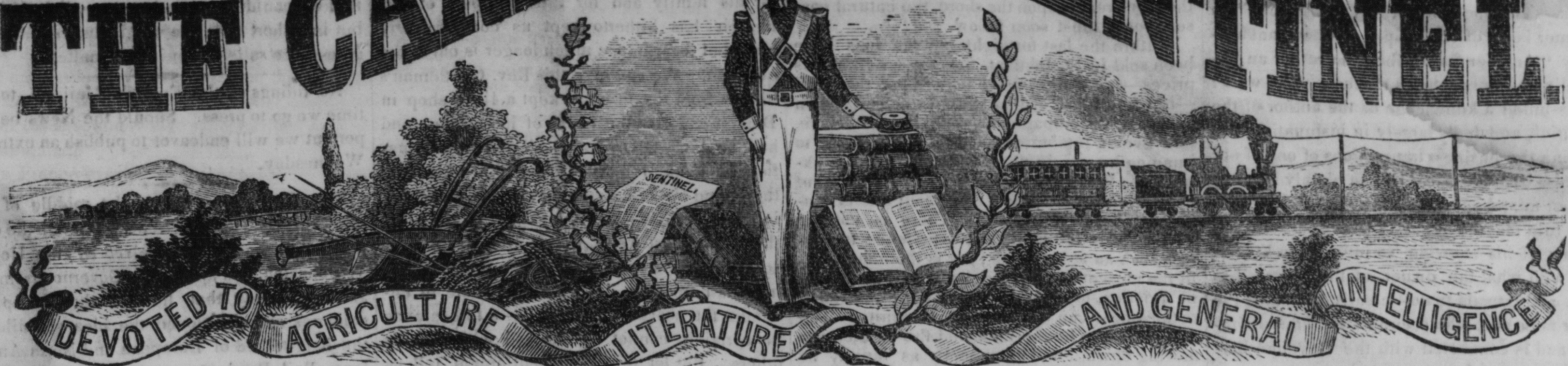


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THE COMING STRUGGLE AMONG THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH;

OR, THE POLITICAL EVENTS OF THE NEXT FIFTEEN YEARS, AS DESCRIBED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROPHECIES OF EZEKIEL, DANIEL, AND THE APOCALYPSE.

(Concluded.)

But by this time the autocrat of Russia has got the nations of continental Europe beneath his feet; and, like Alexander in ancient, and Napoleon in latter times, he thirsts for universal conquest. For the history of his career from this point, onward to its close, we turn again to the regular course of the prophecy. If the reader will, before going any farther, take up his Bible, and read carefully the last five verses of the eleventh of Daniel, and from the beginning of the thirty-eighth chapter of Ezekiel to the twenty-third verse of the thirty-ninth chapter, he will clearly understand the following, which is but a paraphrase of it.

Turning his eyes eastward, on the wealth and prosperity of the countries under British protection, the triumphant conqueror of Europe will conceive the idea of spoiling them, and appropriating their goods and cattle. Scarcely is this idea formed than its execution is begun, and sudden and terrific as a whirlwind he enters "the glorious land." So sudden and unexpected is his onslaught, that the British power is unprepared, and Egypt, Ethiopia, and Libya fall into his hands. But tidings out of the East and North shall trouble him. "Sheba and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto him, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? How emphatically does this language identify Britain as the noble and single-handed opponent of Gog, the king of the north, and corroborate our former statements regarding the extension of her empire in the East? We would particularly point the reader's attention to the "merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof," what a beautiful description is this of the Honorable East India Company, and the peculiar constitution of the Anglo-Indian Government! This constitution, as is well known, is both civil and military, commercial and imperial. The former is represented by the merchants, the latter by the young lions, or the officials of the company, who receive their authority from the lion of Britain, and may therefore be fitly termed thus, even as the representatives of the Persian and Macedonian sovereignties were called young rams and young goats. Indeed, the applicability of the title is admitted by the company itself, whose arms are a shield, the quarters of which are filled with young lions rampant.

The East India Company will, in alarm, notify the ipsofacto of the autocrat, and the loss of Egypt, and receive instructions from the home government to adopt measures for opposing him, with an accompanying assurance of immediate support. Hence "tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him."—The news that the Anglo-Saxon race have resolved to oppose his despotic progress will reach his ears, and the intelligence will annoy

him. But he will lay siege to the Holy City, which will soon surrender to his power, and enable him to "plant the tabernacle of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain."

It is only while tracing the windings and developments of Daniel's vision and John's Revelation that we learn the secret of Poland's downfall and Hungary's degradation. Those nations stand upon the image territory and are involved in its destruction; therefore all efforts to save them must be vain. As powers, they are doomed to fall; and though their wrongs shall one day be righted, for the present their noble-hearted patriots must resign themselves and their cause to the will of Heaven.

And here, too, in the light of this truth-diffusing prophecy, do we understand the past and learn the future of IRELAND. The state of this country has long made it a puzzle to the world; and many have been the attempts, both within and without, to discover the cause and the cure of its evils. The prevalent feeling is, that its union with Britain constitutes the Alpha and Omega of its misery, and for many years it has sought to have the union repealed. Its patriots have even endeavored to identify their cause with that struggle which America successfully sustained with the mother country; and the idea has taken root in many hearts, both in Scotland and England, which cry shame against the injustice. Now, *nothing can be more erroneous than this idea.*—The Irish struggle can never be identified with the western colonial emancipation; neither can it, on account of the absence of the religious element, be compared to the Scotch or English wars of independence. But without going into the vexed question of the justice or injustice of forcibly perpetuating the union we would ask the question, What would be the consequences to Ireland herself, were she to become an independent nation? These, in a political and social point of view, stand clearly forth to the eyes of many of those who steadily oppose the repeal agitation; but it is only when observed through the medium of this Scripture's prophecy that we can discern their full extent and awful magnitude. Passing by those moral and political evils which appear on the surface; what, we ask, would be the fate of the country, fifteen years hence? 'Tis true, Ireland is not on the image territory, and though not probable, it is still possible, that she might escape being conquered by one of the toes; nevertheless, she will be legitimately within the dark region of the curse. She is among those who worship the beast and its image. She has received its mark in her forehead; and if standing alone, and in these circumstances, when the hour of judgment comes how shall she escape? We hesitate not to assert that Ireland's union with Britain is the only thing that stands between her, and utter ruin; and that while Poland and Hungary failed in their effort for freedom, because they were doomed to destruction, Ireland has failed to regain her independence, because she is destined to be saved. We cannot here specify the means which Britain will use for her regeneration. This the future will show, but

regenerated, purified, and elevated she will be and by that very union which she would so rashly sever.

In the preceding column, we have seen that Britain will be kept comparatively free from the war and strife that will soon rage on the continent. How the late past harmonizes with this decision! While nearly the whole of Europe has been convulsed, our sea-girt isle has remained in peace, and kept so far aloof from the oppressors and the oppressed, that many generous but mistaken minds have charged her with coldness and pusillanimity. She has, indeed, given shelter to both when exiled from their own lands, but she has hitherto been kept from entangling herself with the commotions of the times; and while strife and feud have raged around, peace has been in all her borders. This course she will continue steadily to pursue; though, as we before stated, the doings on the continent will keep her in continual alarm and watchfulness. This feeling of uneasiness and anxiety will, however, be greatly dispelled by a knowledge of the truth; and the author of this paper hopes that, for this very purpose, it will be widely circulated.

What a sublime position does that individual occupy, who can stand at a distance and gaze upon such a thrilling spectacle as Europe will soon present with a calmness and assurance, "seeing the end from the beginning?" Can any thing, indeed, be more sublime than this? It is like one of the ancient prophets of Israel gazing from some far-off mountain side on the fulfilment of one of his own prophecies. As he gazes on the scene,—perhaps a city staggering into the bosom of an earthquake, or the progress of a battle between Israel and her enemies,—is it possible to imagine the calmly-glowing feelings of his soul, as, privileged beyond all mortals, he contemplates what had already been pictured to his mind, and can tell the next dwelling-place that shall go crashing down, or the next enemy that shall "lick the dust?" Still greater, if possible, is the position occupied by one who can pass the boundary of the everlasting present, and bodily map the events of the future. Godlike he sits on the edge of the thick darkness, and resolves the mystic shapes that flit and gambol there into regularity and order. The dense mist which has hitherto overhung this end of the "bridge" rolls slowly upward, and the things it concealed loom forth, dimly it may be, but still visible enough in their outlines and lineaments to enable him to recognize them when the wheels of time bear him slowly past them. The very idea of superiority of position like this is enrapturing. To think that it is only a select few that are thus highly privileged; that those whom the events so nearly concern are ignorant of them; to witness the terror and astonishment with which they are met by those they come to destroy; and, above all, to know that he and his kindred are beyond the reach of their sweeping embrace, is to occupy a position never before reached by any save the inspired of the Lord. Such a position may Britain and America occupy, if they can but speedily arrive at the knowledge of it. In a very short time the con-

flict will begin. The "powers that be" cannot long remain in their present relations, and the moment approaches when the dreadful moral volcano must burst. Already is the sound of the storm heard among the tree tops. The Russian army is gathering on the frontiers; France has fallen back to that form of government whose only tradition is war and conquest; the new emperor is fast increasing his naval power; Turkey is trembling, and all Italy is in a smothered flame. The sooner then, that a knowledge of the political future is obtained, the better; and while the Anglo-Saxon race rejoice in their exemption from the doom of other nations, let them learn their destiny, and prepare to fulfil it.

All Sorts of Paragraphs.

Why is a man eating soup with a fork, like another kissing his sweet-heart?

Because it takes so long to get enough of it.

A toast given a few years ago for the shoe and leather manufacturers of Danvers:—

"May they have all the women in the country to shoe and the men to boot."

The same old lady who, on a moonshiny evening, remarked that "it was as light as a cork," in describing some hard swearing the other day, said—"The man swore as hard as a rock."

CERICAL PUN—A parishoner inquired of his pastor the meaning of this line in scripture; "He was clothed with curses as with a garment." "It signifies," replied the divine, "that that individual had got a habit of swearing."

A Scotchman who lately put up at Quebec, was asked in the morning how he slept? "Troth mon," replied Donald, "nae vera weel, either; but I was mackle better aff than the bugs, for deil ane o' them closed an e'e the hale night."

IRISH HUMOR.—Darby Kelly went to confession, and having detailed his several sins of omission and commission, to which various small penalties were attached, at last came to the awful fact, that he had stolen his neighbor Kitty Mudsplasher's pig, a crime so heinous in the sight of Father Tobin, that his reverence by no manner of means could give him his absolution for the same. Darby begged, prayed, and promised, but to no effect, nothing in short but restitution, that is to say, to give Kitty her pig back again; but a difficulty arose; Darby and his children had eaten the pig, upon which the priest waxed wroth and threatened the rogue with evil here, and a terrible destiny hereafter. "Now hear me you vagabond cheat," said he, "when ye go to stand yer trial and find yerself among the goats, (for sheep ye are not) there will be two witnesses against ye, there'll be Kitty, that ye robbed, and the pig that ye ate, and what'll ye do then, ye vagabond?" "Och, please your reverence, is it true what ye say that Kitty Mudsplasher herself will be there?" "She will." "And the pig I ate; will the pig be to the fore?" "He will." "Och, thin, please your reverence, if Kitty Mudsplasher will be there, what'll hinder me from saying, Kitty Mudsplasher, bad luck to yer soul, there's yer pig, sure, won't that be restitution."