

NEW INTERPRETATION OF THE APOCALYPSE.

[Continued.]

Charles I. ascended a prosperous throne; England in peace, faction feeble or extinct; the nation prospering in the full spirit of commerce and manly adventure. No reign of an English King ever opened out a longer or more undisturbed view of prosperity. But Charles betrayed the sacred trust of Protestantism. He had formed a Popish alliance, with the full knowledge that it established a Popish dynasty. He had lent himself to the intrigues of the French Minister stained with Protestant blood; for his first armament was a fleet against the Huguenots. If not a friend to Popery, he was madly regardless of its hazards to the Constitution.

Ill-fortune suddenly gathered upon him. Distracted Councils, popular feuds, met by alternate weakness and violence, the loss of the national respect finally deepening into civil bloodshed, were the punishments of his betrayal of Protestantism. The sorrows and late repentance of his prison-hours painfully redeemed his memory.

Cromwell's was the sceptre of a broken kingdom. He found the reputation and influence of England crushed; utter humiliation abroad; at home, the exhaustion of the civil war; and furious partizanship still tearing the public strength asunder.

Cromwell was a murderer; but, in the high designs of Providence, the personal purity of the instrument is not always regarded. The Jews were punished for their idolatry by idolaters, and restored by idolaters. Whatever was in the heart of the Protector, the policy of his government was Protestantism. His treasures and his arms were openly devoted to the Protestant cause in France, in Italy, through the world. He was the first who raised a public fund for the support of the Vaudois churches. He sternly repelled the advances which Popery made to seduce him into the path of the late king.

England was instantly on her feet as by the power of miracle. All her haules were victories; France and Spain bowed before her. All her adventures were conquests; she laid the foundation of her colonial empire, and of that still more illustrious commercial empire, to which the only limits in either space or time may be those of mankind. She was the most conspicuous power of Europe; growing year by year in opulence, public knowledge, and foreign renown; until Cromwell could almost realize the splendid improbability, that, "Before he died, he would make the name of an Englishman as much feared and honoured as ever was that of an ancient Roman."

Charles the Second came to an eminently prosperous throne.—Abroad it held the foremost rank, the fruit of the vigour of the Protectorate. At home all faction had been forgotten in the general joy of the Restoration.

But Charles was a concealed Roman Catholic.† He attempted to introduce his religion; the star of England was instantly darkened; the country and the King alike became the scorn of the Foreign Courts; the national honour was scandalized by mercenary subserviency to France; the national arms were humiliated by a disastrous war with Holland; the capital was swept by the memorable inflictions of pestilence and conflagration.

James II. still more openly violated the national trust. He publicly became a Roman Catholic. This filled the cup. The Stuarts were cast out, they and their dynasty, for ever; that proud line of Kings was sentenced to wither down into a monk, and that monk living on the ruins of England, a stipendiary and an exile.

William was called to the throne. He found it, as it was always found at the close of a Popish reign, surrounded by a host of difficulties; at home, the kingdom in a ferment; Popery, and its ally, Jacobitism, girding themselves for battle; fierce disturbance in Scotland; open war in Ireland, with the late King at his head; abroad, the French King domineering over Europe, and threatening invasion. In the scale of nations, England nothing!

But the principle of William's government was Protestantism; he fought and legislated for it through life; and it was to him, as it had been to all before him, strength and victory. He silenced English faction; he crushed the Irish war; he then attacked the colossal strength of France on its own shore. This was the direct collision, not so much of the two kingdoms as of the two faiths; the Protestant champion stood in the field against the Popish persecutor. Before that war closed, the fame of Louis was undone. England rose to the highest military name. In a train of immortal victories, she defended Protestantism throughout Europe, drove the enemy to his palace gates, and before she sheathed the sword, broke the power of France for an hundred years.

The Brunswick line were called to the throne on the sole title of Protestantism. They were honourable men, and they kept their oaths to the religion of England. The country rose under each of those Protestant Kings to a still higher rank; every trivial reverse compensated by some magnificent addition of honour and power, until the throne of England stands on a height from which it may look down upon the world.

Yet in our immediate memory there was one remarkable interruption of that progress, which, if the most total contrast to the periods preceding and following can amount to proof, proved that every introduction of Popery into the legislature will be visited as a public crime.

During the war with the French Republic, England had gone on from triumph to triumph. The crimes of the Popish continent had delivered it over to be scourged by France; but the war of England was naval; and in 1805, she consummated that war by the greatest victory ever gained on the seas.‡ At one blow she extinguished the navies of France and Spain. The death of her great statesman at length opened the door to a new administration.§ They were men of acknowledged ability, some of the highest; and all accustomed to public affairs. But they came in under a pledge to the introduction of Popery soon or late into the legislature. They were emphatically 'The Roman Catholic Administration.'

There never was in the memory of man so sudden a change from triumph to disaster. Defeat came upon them in every shape in which it could assail a government; in war, finance, negotiation. All their expeditions returned with disgrace. The British arms were tarnished in the four quarters of the globe.¶ And, as if to make defeat more conspicuous, they were baffled even in that service in which the national feeling was to be most deeply hurt, and in which defeat seemed impossible. England saw, with astonishment, her fleet disgraced before a barbarian, without a ship on the waters, and finally hunted out of his seat by the fire from batteries crumbling under the discharge of their own cannon.

But the fair fame of the British empire was not to be thus cheaply wasted away. The Ministry must perish; already condemned by the voice of the country, it was to be its own executioner. It at length made its promised attempt upon the Constitution. A harmless measure† was proposed,

notoriously but a cover for the deeper in suits that were to follow. It was met with a stern repulse: and, in the midst of public indignation, perished the Popish Ministry of one month and one year.**

Their successors came in on the express title of resistance to Popery; they were emphatically 'the Protestant Administration.' They had scarcely entered on office, when the whole scene of disaster brightened up and the deliverance of Europe was begun with a vigour that never relaxed, a combination of unexpected means and circumstances, an effective and rapid success, that if a man had ventured to suppose but a month before, he would have been laughed at as a visionary. Of all countries Spain, sluggish and accustomed to the yoke of France, with all its old energies, melted away in the vices of its government, was the last that Europe could have looked to for defiance of the universal conqueror.

But if ever the battle was fought by the shepherd's staff and sling against the armed giant, it was then. England was summoned to begin a new career of triumph. Irresistible on one element, she was now to be led up, step by step, to the first place of glory on another; and that Protestant Ministry saw, what no human foresight could have thought to see, Europe restored—the Monarch of its Monarchs a prisoner in their hands—and the mighty fabric of the French Atheistic Empire, that was darkening and distending like an endless dungeon, over the earth, scattered with all its malignant pomps and ministers of evil into air.

It is impossible to conceive, that this regular interchange of punishment and preservation has been without a cause and a purpose. Through almost three hundred years, through all varieties of public circumstances, all changes of men, all shades of general polity, we see one thing alone unchanged—the regular connection of national misfortune with the introduction of Popish influence, and of national triumph with its exclusion.

(To be continued.)

* By the marriage contract with the Infanta, the Royal Children were to be educated by their mother until they were ten years old.—But France, determined on running no risk of their being Protestants, raised the term to thirteen years. Even this was not enough; for Popery was afraid of Protestant milk; and a clause was inserted, that the children should not be suckled by Protestant nurses. The object of those stipulations was so apparent, that Charles must have looked to a popish succession; and the stipulations were so perfectly sufficient for their purpose, that all his sons, even to the last fragment of their line, were Roman Catholics. Even the king's Protestantism was doubtful. Olivarez, the Spanish Minister, openly declared that Charles, on the treaty of marriage with the Infanta, had pledged himself to turn Roman Catholic.

† He had solemnly professed Popery on the eve of the Restoration.

‡ Trafalgar, Oct. 1805.

§ February, 1806.

¶ The retreat from Sweden, 1807.—Egypt invaded and evacuated, 1807.—Whitlock sent out to Buenos Ayres, 1807.—Duckworth's repulse at Constantinople, 1807. All these operations had originated in 1806, excepting Whitlock's, which was the final act of the Ministry.

‡ The granting of commissions in the army. Mr Perceval opposed this, as only a pretext; he said, "It was not so much the individual measure to which he objected as the system of which it formed a part, and which was growing every day. From the arguments that he had heard, a man might be almost led to suppose that one religion was considered as good as another, and that the Reformation was only a measure of political convenience."

** March, 1807.

ESSAY ON SNUFF-TAKING.

Every professed, inveterate, and incurable snuff-taker, at a moderate computation, takes one pinch in ten minutes. Every pinch, with the agreeable ceremony of blowing and wiping the nose, and other incidental circumstances, consumes a minute and a half.

One minute and a half out of every ten;

allowing sixteen hours to a snuff-taking day, amounts to two hours and twenty four minutes out of every natural day, or one day out of every ten.

One day out of every ten amounts to 36 days and a half in every year.

Hence, if we suppose the practice to be persisted in forty years, two entire years of the snuff-taker's life will be dedicated to tickling his nose, and two more to blowing it.—*Mirror.*

[If the above should not prove sufficient to wean snuff takers from the "most ridiculous superfluity," we recommend as a remedy against waste of time, the use of the snuff pistol, more particularly described in follows:—*Ed. Gaz.*

IMPORTANT TO SNUFF-TAKERS. A provincial paper says that a gentleman in Devonshire has invented what he calls a snuff-pistol; it has 2 barrels, and being applied to the nose, and touching a spring with the fore-finger, both nostrils are instantly filled, and a sufficient quantity driven up the head to last the whole day!—*London paper.*

Curious manufacture procured by the labour of Caterpillars.—H. Hallenstreet, of Munich, an old officer, by patiently directing the labour of caterpillars within a limited space, has succeeded in producing an entirely new and very extraordinary kind of fabric. These caterpillars are the larva of a butterfly known by the name of *Finca Punctata*, or according to other naturalists, *Finca Padella*. Their instinct leads them to construct above them a covering (tent) of extreme fineness, but nevertheless firm enough to be impenetrable to air; which covering can easily be detached from them. The inventor has made these insects work on a suspended paper model to which he gave exactly the form and size which he requires. He has thus obtained at pleasure, among other articles, square shawls of the dimension of an ell; shawls two ells in length and one in width; an ærostatic balloon, four feet high by two in horizontal diameter; a lady's entire dress with sleeves, but without a seam.

When he wishes to give to the fabric any prescribed shape, all that he finds necessary is to touch the limits which ought not to be passed, with oil, for which the caterpillars have a natural repugnance so strong, that they will not come in contact with it. The fabric, although perfectly consistent, surpasses the finest cambric in lightness. The balloon which we have mentioned weighs less than five grains. The warmth of the hand is sufficient instantly to inflate it; and the flame of a simple match, held under it for a few seconds, is enough to raise it to a very considerable height, whence it will descend for half an hour. When a shawl of the size of a square ell has been well stretched, it has been blown into the air by means of a small pair of bellows, and then resembles a light smoke, subject to the slightest agitation of the atmosphere.

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