

# CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

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REV'DS. I. E. BILL & R. THOMSON, A. M.,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace, good will toward Men."

EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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[For the Christian Visitor.

## CALVARY.

BY REV. J. D. CASEWELL.

"For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire."—Isaiah ix. 5.

There is within the Bible holy Sages,  
Whose thoughts prophetic sweep through coming ages.

Now they describe a Host, in wide array,  
Who daring set the Son of God at bay.  
God's broad and fiery Law gleams on the line,  
And speaks of wrath, mid brightness most divine;  
And asks to be fulfill'd, or pour its fire,  
On all who have provok'd Heaven's righteous ire.  
On the right wing with menaces infernal  
Demons rise, to war with the Eternal.  
Their aspect shews them skill'd in mighty broils,  
Sordid and fierce, Patrons of Hell's lies.  
The glory of Christ's Presence smites them down  
Undone, into the fiery gulph profound.  
On the left, is Caiaphas the High Priest,  
And, in his train, those, who not the least  
Hate the Lord of life; long rob'd, fierce they spake,  
And with the Scribes and Elders too, they shake  
Defiant glances, at the lowly One,  
Doomed, dyed with blood, to die upon,  
That rugged Cross, and cause the Heavens to  
mourn!

That one, so pure, so meek, though lowly born,  
Should come to such an end. The holy Seers  
Tremble, for they espie in the dense rear  
Not only Roman Soldiers, Priests and Pilate,  
But Wrath and Death! with angry eyes dilate:  
So strong are their emotions, that they shake  
Earth's pavement; and, by strength, or chance, or  
fate,

Hope to defeat Heaven's King; and lay low  
In horrible destruction, with the bow  
Of craft, the cause of good, and turn to ill,  
The blessed work, which is Jehovah's will.

[To be continued.]

[From the Watchman & Reflector.

## THE WAR IN THE EAST.

The article in our last week's paper, condensed from the North British Review's elaborate examination of "The War in the East and its Political Contingencies," was confined to a glance at the position and resources of Russia. The authority that we quote, claims that there is far more of rational and real liberty in Turkey than under the dominion of the Czar,—the exactions and oppressions of the former being rather occasional and erratic than general and systematic, and her religion he regards quite as good as that of the Russian, having in fact exhibited latterly better fruits than his. Evangelical missions have enjoyed a higher degree of protection under the crescent than under the cross, and are to day in the very capital of the Ottoman empire in a condition of peaceful and prosperous efficiency. Never so much as within the last twenty-five years has Turkey been advancing in the higher elements of civilized life. This progress has been so marked as to excite plainly the suspicions of her great northern enemy, and has doubtless hastened the commencement of the present invasion of her territory. She has now a force, including a well-trained reserve, of 400,000 men. The Turks were always brave, and they are now well disciplined, and for the most part well armed and well commanded. Her artillery is known to be in excellent order, and to be managed by European officers of first rate skill. Her regular soldiers are well fed and well cared for; and to crown the whole, the utmost zeal for national independence has been aroused in the remotest corners

of her dominion, and every province is pouring in its contingent with promptitude and ardor. Then the *Tanzimat*, or great constitutional reform of 1839, which conferred equal civil rights on all the subjects of the Porte, and substituted law for mere despotic will, laid the foundation for a new order of things, which when completed, will place Turkey far ahead of Russia in all essential civilization. It is not yet universally established, but is gradually making its way from the centre outwards; it secures property, and endeavours to secure a fair administration of justice; new courts of law have been created in several of the great towns, and the evidence of all men is received without distinction of creed; and such great satisfaction has been given by these new tribunals, that petitions have lately been forwarded to Constantinople praying for their extension to other districts. The revenue is also augmenting, and now amounts to £8,000,000 sterling, but this is still Turkey's weakest point. However, the recent abolition of the old detestable system of "farming the revenue" gives great hopes for the future. All these facts may be gathered from the publications we have placed at the head of our paper; and we think they fairly warrant the statement of Lord Palmerston, that there is no country in Europe which has made such rapid strides in civilization and strength during the last thirty years as that very Turkey which we have been accustomed to regard as in the very last stage of decrepitude and dissolution. Whether her progress is sufficiently consolidated and advanced to enable her to make head single handed against her colossal rival, if the Emperor should put forth his whole powers, and take the field in person, we cannot affirm, and we will commit ourselves to no predictions."

Should the existing war prove successful on the part of Turkey, the reviewer has the most sanguine hopes of her progress, for the next twenty years. He is confident that she would be able to defend herself thereafter, not only against Russia, but any other power that might seek her overthrow. Speaking of her bravery, and course thus far in the pending conflict, he remarks: "Her conduct throughout this whole affair has raised her character incalculably in the eyes of Europe. She has displayed wonderful forbearance, dignity, wisdom, skill and vigor. She refused with spirit an insolent and inadmissible demand, even when unprepared for an attack; she showed herself willing to negotiate and anxious to avoid a rupture if it could be avoided with honor and with safety; she set about preparing for the worst with an energy and determination which amazed both friends and foes: she refused to be cajoled or bullied into a shallow and fatal compromise; her diplomatists at once detected and exposed the insidious meaning and concealed injustice of terms which, we are ashamed to say, the diplomatists of the Four Powers had been deceived into proposing; when she saw how little she had to hope from either the sagacity or firmness of her allies, she resolved to rely upon herself alone; she insisted upon Russia's retiring from the dominions she had invaded, but allowed her time to do so; when she declared war at last she did so in dignified language and with humane provisions which might read a lesson to many a Christian state; and when she commenced hostilities, she did so with courage, spirit, vigor, and success. Indeed, from the outset, she has acted like a Christian, when her adversary has behaved like an ungovernable Pagan; and of all the powers of Europe, she is, we feel proud to say, the only one who has acquitted herself in all points well—the only one who has made no blunder, neglected no duty, committed no injustice.

Our North British Reviewer is quite at a loss to conjecture the results that are to follow the general war which now seems so im-

minent in Europe.—Such a contest "would inevitably become not a mere war of crowns but of nations and opinions—possibly even a war of nations against crowns—and would open questions involving the entire resettlement of Europe. Before it was ended, alliances and combinations might have changed more than once; friends might have become divided, and foes have become joined; dynasties and forms of government might have been overthrown and replaced by their antagonists and opposites; old wounds might have been re-opened, old chimeras re-aroused, old failures re-attempted; and the wild confusion of fifty years since once more sweep away the landmarks of Europe. It is natural enough that all men who have not nerves of iron, and who remember that fearful time, should shrink from opening the floodgates of such an incalculable deluge; it is natural especially that those should shrink from it who have no earnest wishes, no enthusiastic hopes, no clear or well-defined line of policy chalked out in their own minds,—who do not know what port to steer for, what issue to desire, which of two perils to avoid; it is most natural of all that those should shrink from it whom age has taught to dread evil rather than to be sanguine after good, to distrust all brilliant promises and magnificent visions of a regenerated era, and to sicken at the prospect of the dreary desert of chaos and bloodshed which lies between the dreamers and their goal. We believe it is to this feeling, more than any other—to a sense of *unpreparedness* on the part of all our statesmen to face and grapple with the vast problem which shakes its warning finger and lifts its menacing voice in the distance—that we must ascribe the irresolution manifested by both England and France to take any hostile or decided step which might preclude an accommodation, and the obvious determination of all Powers except the combatants themselves to hush up the quarrel by any means and at any price. It is this which has made our government at once interfere to allay irritation and mediate a compromise; it is this which led our representatives to propose terms to Turkey, which it would have been weakness in her to accept, and which it was disreputable in them to suggest; it is this which has made Austria alike ready to join Russia in coercing and terrifying the Porte, or to join the Western Powers in warning and thwarting the Czar; it is this which has made England and France slow and forbearing to the verge of silliness and weakness; it is the knowledge of this feeling, its prevalence and power, which has emboldened Nicholas to press on to his designs with such arrogant and haughty violence."

## BRITAIN AND AMERICA.

The following extract is from the speech of the Rev. Dr. Duff, delivered in Concert Hall, Philadelphia, on the evening of his glorious reception in the far famed city of "Brotherly Love." Powerfully and touchingly does he describe the great bond of union existing between Britain and America. Gracious heaven forbid that that bond should ever be severed:—

"Now, then, what if America and Great Britain were to shake hands across the Atlantic, in token of brotherly love and indissoluble friendship? (Applause.) I feel as if we were substantially doing so now. And why should not the mutual bonds of amity and good-will be drawn closer and closer every year?

Friends and brethren, it is time, it is high time, that all the petty envies, and jealousies, and rivalries, and irritating misunderstandings which may have existed in times gone by, should be buried, and that for ever, in the tomb of oblivion!

Though your and our fathers, on this, or on

the other side of the Atlantic, may have been more or less blameworthy, do not let their blunders, or their harshnesses come down in retributive visitation, and recoil upon the children! Surely the children that rise up on either side may claim the liberty of thinking, and judging, and acting for themselves. Is it not your creed in this country, that they may do so? (Loud and continuous applause.) Why then should any of us be acting out that which we so much condemn in savage nations, even the law of vindictive retribution? Among the Indians, we find a legacy of revenge often left from father to son, through three and four successive generations; but why should any such legacies of virtual revenge descend from father to son, among enlightened Christians?

I have seen noted that on the other side, among the leading men who are at the helm of State affairs, there is a growing feeling of kindness, sympathy, and good-will, towards you on this side of the water. And among our churches there is a growth of the same feeling of brotherhood among the staid, the sober, and the reflecting. I cannot forget that when about to leave London the other day, in conversation with a distinguished official of the British Government, when I told him that I was going to America, "Aye," he said, "I am rejoiced to hear you say so. Go and tell them we are brothers. Tell them that there is a crisis coming, not of physical force only, but of conflicting opinions. Tell them that this is not a crisis in European affairs only. True Christianity and Protestantism are at stake in the matter; and we are the only two Protestant nations on the face of the globe that can vitally subserve and uphold the mighty interests of Christianity and Protestantism among the nations. (Prolonged and enthusiastic applause.) Go, then, and tell them that we are brothers." My reply was to the effect that that was the very spirit in which I was going to America—even the spirit of Christian brotherhood, and the way in which that spirit has already been reciprocated amongst you, alike at New York and in this city of brotherly love, is such that it requires a prodigious effort of the imagination to persuade myself that I am yet out of Scotland. (Enthusiasm and applause.)

Well then, my dear friends and brethren, let us not in this old age of the world, for the world is getting hoary headed, and there are signs of growing decrepitude among most of of the nations in the old world, and they look as if they were about to break up and go into dissolution,—let us not bear any of you say that you have abundance of territory; that though foreign foes might even invade your shores, you can still retire into the vast unoccupied wilderness of the West, where you might defy them to follow you. I cannot believe that Young America, on the glow and vigour of fast ripening manhood, will ever evince such a spirit of contracted selfishness; she will come out in a spirit of noble and enlarged generosity, especially towards her old fatherland. In the terrific conflict now about to rage over Europe and Asia, methinks it is impossible that America can abandon Britain so long as Britain continues the refuge of the oppressed and the stronghold of a living Protestant Christianity. Surely the voice of America will be heard above the waves, saying, that bound by the ties of consanguinity and blood, bound by the ties of common language; and, above all, bound by the ties of our one glorious Protestant Christianity, we cannot allow that Island, mistress of many realms, to be hemmed in and beset on the right hand and on the left, by the confederate forces of European despotism. Being now, as it were, the only last surviving asylum of civil and religious liberty in the old world, we cannot allow it to be crushed beneath the iron hoofs of civil and religious tyranny, whether