

If the Almighty has suffered this war to come upon this country on account of the sins of the people, the only way to end this war is for the people to repent & reform--The Lord is with you, while ye be with him, if you forsake him, he also will forsake you.

The best preparation for trouble of any kind, is to deserve the favor of friendship of the Almighty. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord---All things shall work together for good to them that love God.

Since the judgments of the Lord are among us, the people ought to learn the way of righteousness--- They must recognize the existence & government of God---they must learn to observe the Sabbath--- they must learn to read the Bible, they must learn the way to church---they must learn to love God & keep his commandments---

This reformation ought to begin among the church, the professed people of God, are too cold & lukewarm. We need a neat revival of religion all over this land.

Isaiah 26.9 The Almighty has written or caused to be written three great volumes for the instruction and moral improvement of the human family. The first is the volume of creation. When we look up to the blue, vault of heaven, we behold a vast expanse, where lightning dart their fires & thunder utter their voice, there tempests waste their rage & worlds unnumbered roll at large. The invisible things of God from the creation of the world are clearly seen even his eternal power & Godhead. The second great volume which has been written for the good of mankind is the inspired word of God: All scripture is given by inspiration of God & profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction & instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Of all the boons which heaven has bestowed upon this apostate world, we are bound to say the Bible is the noblest & the most precious. The Bible is the development of mans immortality, it tells of God, of Christ, of heaven & eternal life, & by following its directions, we shall all certainly reach the kingdom of heaven as Caleb & Joshua reached the land of Canaan.

The third volume, which God has spread out for the instruction of the people is the Book of Providence—This was commenced with the creation of man, is yet in progress, & will not be finished until the triumph of God shall announce the end of time & Christ shall come to judge the nations at his bar.

We learn from the volume of Providence, Gods method of dealing with his rational creatures in the present life---here we shall find that virtue is not fully rewarded, nor vice fully punished in the present life---

Mankind are generally permitted to have their way in this probationary state without signal instances of reward or punishment----Sentence against an evil work is but seldom executed in the present life, but to check the presumption of those who take pleasure in sin & boasts of their financial security, a few memorable instances are left upon the page of history where sin has been instantly punished, where the judgment of the Almighty has suddenly fallen upon the transgressor---

When a nation has forgotten or forsaken the Almighty, ignored the claims of religion, & fallen into corruption & wickedness, the history of the world will show, that such nations are visited with the (?) judgments of the Almighty, the most common of which, are pestilence, famine, & the sword. Hence we are told in the language of the text. When the judgments of the Lord are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

As a nation, we have been saved from pestilence, but we have been seriously threatened with a famine. Thousands of our people have suffered for food & raiment.

But while we have escaped pestilence & famine, we have been and are yet terribly scourged with all the horrors of a bloody war. The prevalence of war in any form is always a great calamity to a nation, but ours is a war of a peculiar character---It is a war among ourselves---one section of the country is arranged against the other, & the bitterness of the strife is greatly augmented on their account.

Three years ago, this was one of the most prosperous & flourishing countries that the sun ever shone upon---

But the demon of _____ crept into our councils---and we have been plunged into a state of things which threatens the mind of both sections of this great country.

We have experienced but little of the dreadful effects of the war in this section of country as yet--- Many of our people elsewhere have been ruined---but in this section (?) the people have not yet been much disturbed---But the scourge is yet in the land, & continues to spread & increase, & we may expect that our time will come.

We learn from the bible, that war should be regarded as a judgment of the Almighty for the sins of the people---When the ancient Israelites forgot the Almighty God, & fell into idolatry & wickedness, the Almighty suffered the heathen nations around them to invade their country, & they were scourged with pestilence, famine & sword---