ON PROPHECIES FULFILLED DURING OUR NINETEENTH CENTURY, PP. 3-51

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On Prophecies Fulfilled During Our Nineteenth Century, pp. 3-51 by Edward Dingle

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EDWARD DINGLE

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ON PROPHECIES FULFILLED

DURING

3-1763

OUR NINETEENTH CENTURY.

BY

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PREFACE.

This work is not intended to go into examinations concerning the fulfilment of prophecy respecting the future; but chiefly to present the historical record of some which have so clearly become fulfilled, that the typal aspect they appear in is now easy to apprehend, to the wisdom and glory of the Divine Author, when we are acquainted with the past policies of the ages they refer to. To this end the Author commits the book to the honour of the Christian reader and the blessing of the Eternal Spirit who indited the words of Jesus.

E. D.

5th November, 1895.

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ON PROPHECIES FULFILLED DURING OUR NINETEENTH CENTURY.

AN ANCIENT PROPHECY OF THE PROPHET EZEKIEL, CHAPTERS XXXVIII, AND XXXIX.

Duamo the Crimean War there were a host of pamphlets appearing, ascribing that series of conflicts to belong to these prophecies, as there can be no difficulty regarding the fact that they belong to those descendants of Gog and Magog, now called the Empire of all the Russias, by the titulars of Mesheeh (Moscow), and Tubal (Tobolsk), as well as of the northern parts. The whole idea, however, of that struggle was then given up, simply because the war did not continue to appear to fulfil the whole succession of events in such an overwholming overthrow as the successive chapter presented (29th).

The point lost sight of is this, that two periods of conflict by Russia, as the prompter of the struggle, are included in both chapters. Both having the same object of Russia's ambition, which has been, and is, the same, ever since the Empress Catherine gave it a voice. That is, to obtain possession of Constantinople, and with it the sovereignty of the Mediterranean sea: which, with the profession the Czar makes of being the successor to the kingdom of the Greek emperors, would include all Asia Minor, with the possession in heirship, also, of the once great empire-citizenship of commerce, as held by Tyre and Sidon, and by Tarshish (or Carthage), their daughter.* This, however, struggle as Russia may, can never be hers; as God, in His foreknowledge of what the lives of other States will attein, has foretold us is, that the divided empire of Rome will ever hold the headship of the nations, in which these extreme northern parts of the earth's geography had no place. They were never subdued by the Romans, so as to be provinces of her empire.

^{*} I have been in the bay of Tunis and the reservoirs of Carthage. Her situation, in that large, open bay, presents the danger to shipping lying by quays, to be dashed in pieces by Euroclydon, the great north-east wind. Such a change of name (Ps. xlviii. 7) is common.

Every effort of Russia, by the direct line of Europe, to acquire Constantinople has met with disappointment only. There is one point, however, which gives a key to the reason that none of her other efforts by that line are at all noticed in the Word of God. The point of profession did not in these wars claim, openly, before that, to be for the acquisition of the "holy places," although the Christian religion was always in some degree the excuse presented, as for the liberation from Mohammedan control of other parts. No idolatry for relies (according to the explanation of Jesus to His disciples, "Where the carcase is there will the eagles be gathered together", can excel, in its superstitious passion for such, that of Russia; she is, although divided from Rome, a full equal in these vain influences. It is to this force of false religious zeal that the Russian rulers look to secure a willingness on the part of a people otherwise desirous of a peaceful home; and, hence, all the direction of their Episcopacy is held at use to conform to it. The persecution of the Jews included to keep them out.

Proceeding now to our direct object respecting the true interpretation of these chapters, the point lost sight of was-that there is here, what readers of prophecy of late years have better become acquainted with by regard due to other passages, such as our Lord's partial quotation from Isaiah in Luke's gospel, when He was preaching, presents. This is, that ancient prophecy naturally grouped things future into one sentence by the line of sight, although as it regards two distinct points, there might be a great distance in line between. This has been called a broak in prophecy. So here, in both these chapters, we have it as distinctly defined as it is possible, both parts being then in one line future. This one, is of a struggle, which for the first time closed by the Lord's use of what is represented by a "Hook" only: and the definition for the hook is given in the second chapter. But a check by a hook cannot be the same thing as such a terrible overthrow by the 39th chapter is depicted. There is, in both chapters, a clearly defined second bringing forth of Russia for the punishment due to her idolatry, ambition, and obstinacy; all the details present a difference in the two periods. The first effort was foretold to be by the chief prince, or emperor, over that empire alone, detailed as designated by Meshech and Tubal, but without allies. And then it is, by both chapters, the first check takes place by the hooks, but only to turn Russia back again. Her final retreat of troops from Sebastopol is plain. In this case the cause of the conflict began openly respecting Russia's claim to be the guardian and holder of the holy places. This being of Immanuel's land brings it into the Bible. Of other struggles by Russis, although, no doubt, to the same end, the Word of God would not load itself with. By details, also, for interpretation it would become confused for readers.

No prophecy has been more carefully presented than in those two chapters. The well-known diplomatic style of Russia's system is well defined in 28th chapter, 10th verse, respecting the final effort yet to come, when Persia, Ethiopia, and Lybia are her allies. In that period the result is described as anything but a temporal check and turning back, but becomes a most bloody overwhelming overthrow. On this point translations differ, however, as in the 39th chapter the result of the conflict must be nationally ruinous, and most improbable, by the account given in the old authorised editions. The turning back is the same in both; but, "And I will leave but the sixth part of thee," which is, after all, followed with the same expression respecting after workings—"And I will cause thee to come up from the north parts (meaning the sides of the earth) hopeless." Thus giving the idea of the European and Asiatic northern dominions which Russia has finally secured from the Baltic to the sea of the Amour. Now all prophecy is subject to corroboration by facts, at least, and the Crimean War for the first rising up and check by the hook, will settle for that the question respecting different capacities in translators as we proceed.

Some of the annotators have left out this passage in the 39th chapter altogether, as to the Divine action in judgment and restraint belonging to our older versions. "And I will leave but a sixth part of thee."* This is replaced by the marginal translation of the passage in that of the paragraph version of the Religious Tract Society; and we have to follow out our acceptance of either by facts occurring, "I will strike thee with six plagues; or draw thee back with an hook of aix teeth" (see margin). In these two variations we have the number six, but differently connected, yet at either case we have a valuable connection with the definite power given in the 38th chapter, where a hook, or in fact hooks (plural) are presented. This, at once, recognises the aid of two statements, and with a variation, but no contradiction by detail. Do, then, the facts that occurred give us a record for truth. The so-called revised translation entirely varies from the older authorised version, and the emendation of the Tract Society by margin, so that all distinction is got rid of, as to two different times for the Russian effort. By their setting, I see no distinction is made between simply a check by hooks, and the final overthrow so awfully depicted in the 39th chapter. A clear contradiction. Their two passages are 38th chapter: "And I will turn thee about (not back) and put hooks into thy jaws; and I will bring thee forth,"-which would appear as though the hooks were to help the future effort instead of to put a check of time between a first effort for Judea, and a second. Yet these interpreters make all the difference between a first start of Russia, as of Meshech and Tubal alone in the war; and, duly afterwards, add on other great powers as allies in that war. Other translations make similar differences on this point. Now, I am aware, that it must appear very presumptuous in one, not acquainted with the original at all, to attempt to decide on such a point, but we have at least this to aid the facts of the case, Crimean, and the other point of

^{*} It was scarcely credible that a nation so reduced could make a second effort, but this idea is given up by all parties entirely now, as all lost but a sixth part.