

of which several stood around them within the distance of half a mile. Dr. Chalmers's plan was to have a church built in the midst of them to be their own, and to which they might come ever so meanly clad. But they were poor and could not build a church. Here the good people of Edinburgh thus loved the Saviour, and the souls of men, came to their help, and erected for them a good commodious church. There was no gallery in it at first, there was no need of it. The audiences would not nearly fill the floor-pews. The first communion held there, only four from that congregation sat at the Lord's Table. After a few years it was found necessary to put a gallery in the end of the church. This being filled, the gallery was extended along the two sides of the building. Now, on the Sabbath you will find not only all the pews filled below and in the gallery, but also the aisles crowded with people standing, for whom no seats can be obtained. Now in the West Port they can count not only their audience by hundreds, but even their communicants, all gathered from the miserable, wicked people described above. Thus was raised the congregation in connection with which the Children's Meeting was held, which I was invited to attend.

In order to make sure of finding the place on the evening of the meeting I went to see it in the daytime. In large and commodious rooms below the church, I found a flourishing school, taught by an efficient staff of teachers. The superintendent very kindly shewed me into the various apartments. In the largest there was a mixed school of boys and girls, learning reading, writing, arithmetic &c. In another I found a goodly assemblage of children, apparently below five years of age, all busy, clean, and happy-looking. In a third room I found the elder girls learning to knit and sew. And how dexterously they did ply their needles! They all looked tidily, cheerful and happy. One could not but love and respect them. But oh, how sweetly they sang! The strains of their melody seem still to ring in my ear! I listened. They were singing:

"From Greenland's icy mountains,
From India's coral strand, &c."

When they came to

"Waft, waft ye winds, the story,
And you, ye waters, roll,"

how heartily they seemed to enter into the spirit of the prayer! Yes, the children of the "West Port" lately delivered from worse than heathenism, are now not only sending up their *prayers*, but also contributing their *pennies* to hasten the day when the gospel,

"—Like a sea of glory
Shall spread from pole to pole."

In the evening at the appointed hour, I again visited the school-rooms. The children were all assembled—for they learn to be punctual. I think there could be no fewer than five hundred of them present. I was astonished to find them behave themselves so well. They did credit to themselves, to their teachers, and to their parents by their good behaviour. You could see some of them listening with all eagerness to catch every word addressed to them. They were not all very *finely* clad, but they were all clean and happy-looking, as all good children ought to be.

The Rev. Mr. Tasker, their minister, much and deservedly beloved by both parents and children, would have me say something to them about our Mission in the South Sea and our children in Nova Scotia, which I was very glad to do. So I related to them some of the wicked deeds of the heathen, how they kill their own children, cook them, and invite their neighbours to partake of the horrible feast; how they bury alive the sick and infirm, old and young, who are no longer able to earn their own livelihood; and how, when they seek the pardon of their sins, being ignorant of the only Saviour, instead of wiping away their sins they plunge themselves deeper and deeper into transgression—such, for instance, as burning some of their fellow men as a sacrifice. I was glad also to lay before them the triumph of the gospel in Aneiteum, to shew that many of them were brought to love the Saviour, love the Bible, keep the Sabbath, live peaceably and happily among themselves.

Next I had to say something about our children in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, which I did by stating that you are now building a Vessel for the Mission,