

tired from this highly promising and necessary labour, and left this fruitful field to the care and cultivation of others who having discovered its richness, have year by year sown more plentifully in it until at length a regular system has been organized, by the help of some of our own people, for the regular distribution through the country of a sort of religious books in which the distinctive doctrines of our Church are thoroughly ignored?

We have slept,—clergy and laity. But our sleep has not been refreshing, for it has been under the broad sunshine of Gospel light which we have not to the best of our ability diffused to others. It is time we were fully awake, and each one looking upon this as his particular business. Is the training and guiding of immortal souls a matter of indifference to us? Even if our zeal is so dead as to seek to make no proselytes, shall we make no effort, in these days of increasing secular knowledge, to hold our own? Are our Church principles really of so little consequence to us that we shall make no effort to make them known even to the few enquirers among our own people? For education is awakening a vast number of slumbering minds, and religious education must keep pace with secular instruction, or the knowledge of evil will soon outgrow and choke the knowledge of good.

But some may ask—What books may we, as Churchmen, safely circulate which will be generally acceptable? We confidently answer—the publications of the English Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. In England amidst all the commotion of our renewed religious animation, no tongue has been raised against the tone of this Society by those who are styled Low Churchmen, for even many Dissenting Sunday School Libraries are largely supplied from its stock. And it is but extreme men among the High Church party who object to it. It pronounces no Shibboleth, for it justly decides that there is enough of God's truth and sound Church principle, common to both extremes, which needs diffusion, to the promotion of Unity and Charity. Every bookseller, whose shelves are adorned with its highly attractive and popular publications, will testify to the large purchases which are made from them by Dissenters of every name, whilst over-cautious Churchmen so far from rejoicing at and assisting towards the success of their great and good Society—seek their mental pabulum from more highly seasoned but less nutritious sources, or from the chilling ices of thick-ribbed Calvinism.

Surely it is the duty of every Churchman to promote the reading and circulation of the Bible and Prayer-Book. The S. P. C. K. is the oldest Bible Society in England, for it was founded in 1698, and its constant effort has been to circulate the Bible and Prayer-Book at reduced prices, until at length it has brought them down to a miracle of cheapness, and by gratuitous distribution to soldiers, emigrants and others, has scattered them to the ends of the earth. It has built and endowed colleges, assisted in the education of clergymen, built and repaired churches and parsonage-houses, and planted and fostered Church of England congregations in all the colonies of the British Empire. There is not, perhaps, one Church of England congregation in Nova Scotia which either for the education of their clergyman, the furnishing of the Parochial Library, the building of the Church edifice, or the supply of the service books, is not more or less indebted to this good Society. We visit three churches and three stations in a poor parish on the Atlantic coast, and here, from the beautiful English windows in the latest-built church, to the Bible and Prayer-Book on the desk at the outmost station, we are every