

We have endeavored to take a present and prospective view of our field and the kind of Presbyterianism required. A race naturally shrewd, often thoughtful and generally intelligent; accessible to all modern ideas, quick in taking the benefit of all modern improvements, rapidly imbibing the speculations afloat in older countries, especially those with which they are allied, enjoying the leisure, if they have the inclination, to reflect, and having every prospect of attaining some eminence in science, for which they have opportunity and adaptation, preserving loyally traditions, which are soon to die, and developing a nationality which is sure to emerge in the course of time—a nationality in which European vigor is not diminished, but intensified by being freed from all the trammels of caste and rank—such a race must go forth to pursue the common impulses of humanity. This people are brought face to face with Romanism whose strength in our midst must gravely complicate the future of this country; because, with many merits and with many great truths embedded in its bosom, it carries down from mediæval times a superstition which is debasing, but which was harmless, when compared with modern and recent additions to the old Popish creed,—additions by which the whole Roman Catholic body are at the feet of the Pope or those who control the Pope for the purpose of keeping out the light and spreading darkness among the fresh and virgin glories of this land of the setting sun. Whether Protestant missionaries shall accomplish much or not, the light will and must break in, and when it does, it will be followed by the recoil of scepticism—such is the invariable effect of outraging man's intellect.—To meet this state of things, we must have a church which, while it does not discourage a healthy sentiment of reverence for the past, favors intelligence and the spread of useful knowledge; which studies history not for precedents but for lessons; which encourages historians, not antiquaries; which attempts no stolen march upon the friends of improvement by the aid of the old shoes, fusty garments and mouldy bread of the Gibeonites of a past age, but reforms the present out of the past and adapts the past to the present, and which will therefore not seek to plant another