

it is this which gives solidity and strength to her constitution—it is that which gives stability to her throne. This inconsiderable spot of land, as it appears on a corner of the map of the world, has, under the influence of Christianity, developed an imperial power that moves the world.

England, Sir, has become by the inscrutable Providence of heaven the emporium of commerce to the world at large—she has become the citadel of liberty flaming with the banner of hope—she has become the canal of political influence for the world at large—she has become the sanctuary of truth for the world at large. This little spot, which the foreigner looks upon in the corner of the map, and which when he visits he can traverse in a few hours, and find himself surrounded on all sides by rocks and waves, has become the fortress of truth, and the temple of Christianity, to which the eyes of all nations are looking from year to year.

Has God dealt with any other nation in this manner? Let us look at the temporal benefits that he has entrusted to us, and ask, "Why are these things our own—Why is it, that even in the natural resources of our country we have the advantage of nations of tenfold territorial extent?" Our scanty soil produces harvests heavier than others in proportion. The agricultural produce of this country is valued at £140,000,000 sterling every year. And then, beneath the soil, there is a new world of opulence in the mines of metal and of coal, which lay open to us the means not only of the multiplication of money itself, but the means of making money in our intercourse with other parts of the world. In the present advanced state of civilization no people can make anything like an eminent stand in the arts and manufactures of life, without coal. In France, and Belgium, and Spain, and Italy, there is very little coal worthy of the name. In Russia, none. This is a circumstance that disables them from any rational hope of being our competitors. But it is a singular circumstance that it is only found where the foot of the Anglo-Saxon treads the soil; as if Heaven had condescended this invaluable instrument of improvement, and civilisation to a race in whom he has implanted noble impulses after liberty, and after the regeneration of the moral nature of man. Then, Sir, when the traveller steps upon the quays of London—when he looks upon the astounding scene that reveals itself to his eyes, he knows very well that he is in the midst of the metropolis of the world. He has seen in our seaport harbors proud navies lying in repose, whose thunders have lately awed the world to peace. But as he comes up yonder river a forest of masts, hewn on the mountains of all the lands of the globe, become to his sight the symbols of the peaceful enterprises of commerce. He sees on either side of the river whole cities of warehouses, and then around and beyond, for miles and miles, the eye becomes overwhelmed with the activities of the multitudinous and never-ceasing effort to promote the civilisation and comfort and well-being of millions both at home and abroad. As he walks along yonder great thoroughfares, his eye discovers tokens of wealth more impressive than those that Aladdin gazed upon when he explored the Eastern caverns by means of his lamp, and all the more impressive from the entire absence of ostentation. He passes by some quiet looking houses, with names hardly legible upon them, but he learns that twenty-nine of these houses have within one year passed no less than £950,000,000 of money through their clearing rooms, after the rate of £3,000,000 sterling per day. He learns that the loans of one of these houses amount to

£30,000,000 in the year—he learns that although some of every hundred houses in London only some forty are insured, the insurance property of London amounts to no less than half a billion of money. He goes further west. He enters the House of Commons. He finds the Chancellor of the Exchequer developing the finances of the nation. He learns there that the results of the commerce of the past year have poured into the coffers of England the stupendous amount of between £300,000,000 and £400,000,000 of money.

He learns in conversation that the gold itself—the solid bullion brought last year from Victoria alone, amounted to no less than one hundred and twenty tons in weight. He is assured that the same kind of average is now being realised, and that it will be realised for years and years, and it may be, for ages to come.

He learns, then, that he stands amongst the richest people under heaven, and if he be a man of reflection—if he has read history—if he has thought of the dealings of God with other nations,—he asks, "Why are these people so endowed?" Then God has given us the grant of actual dominion in the earth—we will speak nothing of money more; if money will evangelise the world, England can accomplish the task without feeling it, but money alone cannot do it. God has given us dominion in the earth—physical dominion, Sir. We have the command of the ocean. Our fleets are abroad upon all its waters. More than this, we have the command of those salient points here and there upon the watery ways of the earth, which will give to us the wardenship of the high road to any land, and to every nation. Such is Gibraltar; such is Malta in the Mediterranean, such are the Ionian Islands in the Levant, such are Bermuda and St. Helena for the two Atlantic; the Cape for the way to the East Indies, Vancouver's Island for the Pacific, Singapore for the Indian Archipelago; Aden for the Red Sea; and so on. Many other places of the same kind we might mention. Now, Sir, the country that can command the possession of these—shall I say, toll-gates of the great ocean highways?—may be regarded as the trident-bearing Mistress of the civilized world. Therefore we wonder not that a great statesman of another land should have averred that England's possession of these salient points in the ocean will give her at any time a prowess of military kind equal to the possession of a million of men under arms. Whilst referring to those military points where England's red cross waves over these rocks of the ocean, he eloquently speaks of the drum beat at sunrise, following the hours of the day, incessantly accompanying the sun with the martial airs of England, and the never-ending prayer of the anthem that God would save the Queen. These points are, however, but gates, so to speak, to the interior territories stretching far east and west, and north and south, in Africa, in India, in Canada, in Australia,—territories which are ever on the enlargement; for the territorial power of England is increasing every year, and no sagacity may define where the limit at length may be drawn. Moral power—moral dominion—is ours as well. Our character stands high. Our very name, Sir, as every man who has travelled in other lands knows, is a talisman of power. An Englishman who lives worthy of the name he bears is regarded as a kind of noble among the human race. Our language becomes the common vehicle of speech not only in our vast colonial and continental territories in the East, but among our friends, and allies on the continent of Europe. It becomes evident every year that the English

will by and bye be the common speech in the way of intercommunication amongst the peoples of the earth, and will very likely, in due time, supplant many others. Above all, Sir, we have the Gospel—the Word of God—with power and much assurance—whence this amazing manifestation of grace, under which—for we know that God has not made a grain of sand in vain, or appointed the existence of a reptile or an insect without some wise design,—we have been enabled to build up edifices of power and adaptation, such as those which meet the eyes of the man who ponders the call of England in her relations with the world. We have that which will make the world tree—we have that which will communicate the benefit of the prince to the poor. It is in the Gospel. We have that which will sanctify the savage, nursed in the lap of murder, and transform him from a brute to a man, from a man to a saint. We have it in the Gospel. England has this power in trust. Let her be faithful to the trust, and her name will be perpetual—let her be faithless to that trust, and we cannot guarantee her existence in her present character for half a century. The Prophet once saw a gigantic image of the world-power with a head of gold, and arms of silver, and thighs of iron, and feet of clay. Grandly this Herculean Colossus gazed upon his sight, and it had the appearance of a perpetuity as perfect as the everlasting hills. But there came an agency unseen and unexpected, under the pressure of which the spectacle of power began to waver, and to shudder, and to moulder into the dust, and the whole form vanished from the sight as the chaff on the threshing-floor disappears before the wind. This shows us that we ought not to be proud, but lowly—not to be self-sufficient, but to ask, "Whence to me these works of mercy, and displays of benevolence?" England, the cause is thine.

See, how unfettered are thy feet,
Thy way is plain o'er land and sea,
Go, and in accents loud and sweet,
Tell what thy God hath done for thee.

THE CHURCH AT HOME.

General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

MONDAY, MAY 25.

The Assembly met to-day at eleven o'clock—Dr Robertson, Moderator.

THE COLONIAL SCHEME.

Dr Fowler, the Convener, gave in the Report of the Committee on this Scheme, the substance of which was as follows:—

Immediately after the rising of last General Assembly, the committee proceeded to fill up the vacancy which had been created in the office of their Secretary; and after the fullest deliberation, Simon S. Laurie, Esq, was appointed, at a reduced salary of £45; an appointment which had proved in every way satisfactory.

In order to obtain correct official information regarding the religious wants of our brethren in the colonies, and to guide them in appropriating the missionary localities at their disposal to the most necessitous localities, the committee addressed circulars to all the Presbyteries of the Colonial Church. The communications which have been received in reply to these circulars have been of great practical advantage to the committee; indeed, they have formed their chief directory in all the appointments which they have made, and will be of much value in directing their future operations.