

own corroded surface, and hence imagine all the world to be like themselves. Others, from peculiarity of temperament, are disposed to take the dark side of the picture and are always in the gloom. For these, and for all, nothing is so bracing and cheering as to enter heartily into the work of the gospel in the various spheres they occupy; for, as Cowper says of complainers,

"Were half the breath thus vainly spent
To heaven in supplication sent,
Your cheerful song would oftener be,
'See what the Lord has done for me.'"

Let the Christian then learn that his proper position is to be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord,—this will raise his hope, strengthen his faith, and encourage his heart; and while he will find that the Lord whom he serves will find a field for all his energies, talents and experience, he will find the prospects before him bright as the promises of God, and that he will have no occasion to say unwisely "the former times were better than these."

D. M.

Trans-Atlantic Retrospect.

We are glad to find that the "exploit" of the British fleet in Japan—the burning of Kagosima, a town with three times the population of Toronto, suddenly, without warning, and without cause—is calling forth the indignant protest of all who love their religion as well as their country, and do not desire to see the one blasphemed by pretended devotion to the other. The facts have been so fully stated in the papers, that we need not repeat them here. Palliate and excuse it as we may, it will remain a barbarous and horrible transaction, and, unless disavowed by the British Government, and reparation made as fully as possible, will be an indelible stain on the national character. Mr. Cobden has written a letter to the *Times*, earnestly denouncing the act, and calling upon the people to disown it, and refuse to be identified with so great a crime. He says:

"Now, let me ask you to consider for a moment what is really implied by the destruction, with incendiary shells, without previous warning, of a city of even 100,000 inhabitants. There are always in such towns hundreds of infants at their mothers' breasts, thousands of children under five years of age, hospitals with their sick, and numbers of aged and infirm tottering on the brink of the grave; there, too, must be women over whom the pangs of maternity are impending, and there will be found homes filled with mourning for the dead which are awaiting the rites of sepulchre. Such is the normal condition of every large city whether in Asia or Europe. Now, picture this great commercial entrepôt, with all its contents, reduced in forty-eight hours to a heap of ashes; try to realise in imagination the fate of its population; and then ask yourself what great crime they had committed to bring on themselves this havoc and destruction? To our shame and confusion, the answer must be that this is the way in which Englishmen, under the command of Admiral Kuper and Col. Neale, administer justice for the murder of an individual 100 miles away, of which crime the inhabitants of Kagosima were as guiltless of all knowledge and complicity as your own neighbours in Rochdale. It is precisely as though an enemy should lay Bristol in ashes because an individual had been murdered on the highway between London and Brentford. And the chief actors in this outrage on humanity, instead of expressing one word of regret or even emotion, coolly lay claim to the approbation of their Government.