

ty, could not only co-exist, but confirm and establish each other. The achievements of Presbyterianism in this direction have not been thrown away upon the world. It is a fact worthy of thoughtful contemplation that the constitutions of the best governed and most advanced nations are in their essential features modelled on the Presbyterian system.

Presbyterianism has had its ups and downs, its days of weakness and revival, its fiery trials, and its illustrious triumphs. Embarrassed by foes without and feuds within—traitors and cowards whispering treason in the city while the enemy was thundering at the gates,—still it has gone on its way rejoicing, diffusing truth, maintaining righteousness, and winning fresh laurels for the Redeemer's crown. And never was it so pure and so influential as at the present moment. This Vine of God's own planting—how gloriously has it flourished! How deeply has it struck its roots, how widely has it extended its branches! To what sea has it not sent out its boughs—what river is not overshadowed by its foliage! It has preserved its vigor and fruitfulness alike under tropical skies and when assailed by the fierce blasts of northern winters. The savage and the sage, men of all races and tongues have sat under its shadow with great delight and its fruit has been sweet to their taste.

While recognizing to the full the peculiar excellence and the paramount claims of their own system, Presbyterians are ever ready to extend the hand of christian brotherhood to all, of whatever name, who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity. We cordially forgive, and bear patiently with, Christians who, under evil influences, malign and misrepresent us and refuse to return our friendly greeting. We are always anxious to associate with the good in every good work. It is not for us to judge brethren harshly who, walking according to the light they have received, are less favoured than ourselves, and cannot attain to our standard. We endeavour to rejoice in what is true, just and excellent in the principles and profession of others—remembering that if we indeed possess a better system and a purer faith, we are bound to manifest these in our life and conduct. We cannot behold without profound satisfaction the gradual approximation to our own system that is observable in prelate churches on the one hand and in Independent churches on the other. "Diocesan Assemblies," "Conventions," "Associations," "District meetings" are but euphemisms for Presbyterian Church Courts. "Lay delegates" are but substitutes, however indifferent, for Elders.

Presbyterianism having done so much for other lands, has been tried in these provinces and has not been found wanting. Its temples are open, its beacon lights are burning from the coasts of Newfoundland and Cape Breton up to the sources of the St. Lawrence, off to the lonely valley of the Saskatchewan and to the golden shores of British Columbia. Its usefulness has been retarded and its beauty sadly marred by internal feuds; but we humbly trust that the days for war among ourselves are over. A great work has been committed to us, and we cannot, we dare not give either time or strength to fratricidal strife. To all brother-Presbyterians, to all Christians, we hold out the olive branch of peace, while we address ourselves in singleness of heart and in the might of God, to the evangelization of our country—of the world. Our brave reforming forefathers did not shrink from the stern task that was given them to do, and let us not shrink from ours. They will be ashamed of us—ay, our common MASTER will be ashamed of us—if we be found fainthearted or unfaithful!