

ficial and enduring. In such a prospect, how much is there to awaken earnestness, to inspire vigour, to sustain under difficulty, to give—in connection with the thought that He who has appointed us our work is, and will be with us—assurance of triumph.

Moreover,

2. *The door into this wide and influential sphere stands entirely open before us.*

Wherever we feel our labour called for, we may go, without the necessity of asking consent from any quarter. No power in the land, whatever its disposition, can bar against our entrance a single spot. In the eye of the law we stand on a perfect equality with those among whom we dwell; and have, within those just limits which I trust we shall never be found attempting to transgress, the fullest freedom of action secured to us by its whole power. The fault is, consequently, our own, if any region requiring our aid, and which it is in our power to take up, be left unoccupied. In the selection of fields we owe it to our Master, our brethren of other evangelical denominations, and ourselves, to act on generous principles; but the fact that, subject to that condition, which I should regret to see violated in any instance or under any temptation, we enjoy such access to a territory so vast and of such a character, involves us in a responsibility equally solemn and weighty.

We remark,

3. *That in the case of not a few of those towards whom we enjoy this access, the new circumstances in which they find themselves placed, prepare them to give to our teaching a less biassed attention than they might otherwise have been disposed to accord.*

Less or more, we are all liable to be influenced by prepossessions. Inasmuch as these may be on the side of truth, as well as error, and may thus conduce to our grasping it with a firmer and more tenacious hold than might otherwise have been taken of it, their operation cannot be regarded as an unmixed evil. When, however, the most liberal allowance has been made for what may perhaps without much impropriety be called their beneficial action, a large residuum of mischief must, we fear, be acknowledged to remain. They take far too often the character of prejudices, or have in them a large infusion of that element; and in this form act as obstructions to truth. It may be questionable how far, with the human mind and the general condition of society what they are, the hope can be rationally indulged of being ever raised entirely above them. Still, a difference may be expected to be made by circumstances, both in their measure and their power. A difference of this sort these do make. In this respect we cannot help thinking ourselves favorably situated. Brought, as new comers into the country necessarily are, into contact with forms of thinking to which they have been unaccustomed, the question is apt to suggest itself, supposing them gifted with a moderate stock of intelligence, whether, after all, they may not be less exclusively in the possession of truth than they have been wont to think themselves. Prepared thus, the respect engendered by the friendly offices of familiar, it may be frequent and affectionate association, with the recognised equality in the eye of the law elsewhere adverted to, gives truth a better chance with them than it might otherwise have had. In so far, then, as we believe ourselves to have that on our side, we may expect to profit by such a state of things. Already we have done so in a measure eminently fitted to encourage us.

We remark,