

Gospel in their various localities and sending it abroad, I find they are the men who in their own localities stand highest and are most respected,—those in whom their neighbors have the greatest confidence; and I am bound to conclude that, for their character, position, and the confidence reposed in them, they are indebted to the very Gospel they are doing so much to circulate. And yet with all the evidences which surround us of the good which is being accomplished by the Gospel, we have those among us,—and good people too,—who tell us that the world is getting worse. Where are the marks of increased wickedness? Do they find them in the marvellous good which has been accomplished through the instrumentality of the Bible Society? In the light brought to dreary dwellings by the circulation of the millions of copies of God's word? In the multiplication of temples, such as this, erected for God's worship, through the length and breadth of the land? In the spread of charitable institutions? And, lastly, in the rending of those cords which have hitherto so bound Christians that they were unable to see good in any of other churches,—to the opening of their eyes and the enlarging of their hearts, so that they could love those, of whatever name, who loved the Lord Jesus Christ? We say, despite these good brethren, the world is getting better. Men tell us the world is dark, and so it is; yet take the map and you will find that around this dark world there is a girdle of light—gospel light—illuminating earth's dreary wastes. Again, we have some who are always moaning about the divisions of the Church, and longing for the time when the Church will be one. Well, there are lines, but they are not separating lines. Away with that narrow feeling which sees no good save in one's own church! and let us pray that in the triumph and sorrow of sister Churches we can weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice. I know very well that these are the prejudices of one's early teachings and the prejudices growing out of one's surroundings; yet let two hearts be brought together, each having tasted of Christ's pardoning love, and whatever the outward differences in their forms of worship, they speak a lan-

guage intelligible to each,—in a language unknown to the world,—and they will recognize in each the love and unmistakable signs which mark them as the children of one family. We love, for example, to think of Henry Martyn, as an Episcopalian; of Carey, as a Baptist; of Dr. Duff, as of the Free Church; of Adoniram Judson, as connected with the Missionary efforts of our American brethren. Do we love the memories of those honored men less because they belonged to branches of the Christian Church other than our own? Hallowed and fragrant are the memories of these devoted men, and their churches are dearer to us because of their connection with them. Christians are one, and there is no need for this sorrow about the divisions of Christians. Good men love good men whatever be their Church; nor do we see that their love for each other need be greater were they all belonging to one. We see, then, for this world cursed by sin, dark and dreary as it is, nothing but light; for its wretchedness and sorrow, and suffering and death, nothing but happiness and hope,—and this at no distant day. Some say the progress of the Gospel and the triumph of Missionary effort has been slow; and they speak of science in its progress and of the spread of commerce. We hold that Christian effort has not only not been behind either the progress of science or of commerce, but has been in advance of both. We live in wondrous times: works are undertaken in our day which our forefathers would have regarded as supernatural. We have a railroad not only over the Alps but through them, not only electric wires above the water but electric cables below them; not merely one but three lines of railroads spanning this Continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific and soon the globe will be encircled by the electric telegraph, so that what is said and done in any one part of the globe will be known almost simultaneously at every part and in any corner of it. Now, for this wonderful achievement Christianity has made its preparations, and that through the instrumentality of its Missionary efforts. Flash your startling messages across the wire, announcing some great, stirring, living event, and in the many babbling tongues of earth,—in all the languages almost spoken under heaven,