

that it shall witness for and not against you at that day? Luke xvi. 9.

14. If you think you have the excuse of straitened circumstances, are you as anxious to give like a gentleman or lady, as to dress like one? 1 Tim. ii. 9, 10.

15. CHRISTIAN PROFESSOR, WHY DO YOU HOARD OR WITHHOLD? IT WILL NOT ENRICH YOU FOR TIME. IT WILL IMPOVERISH YOU FOR ETERNITY. Jam. v. 3.

"So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God," Luke xii. 21.

(The MS. furnished by a friend in Clackmannanshire.)

P. DRUMMOND.

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OUR LARGE TOWNS.

The object of the Home Mission and Church-extension Scheme is to assail irreligion, infidelity, and social degradation within the borders of our own country—to supply religious ordinances to those who are destitute of them—and to gather in souls to the kingdom of Christ from all quarters of the country, and from all classes of the population. The scheme is of vast magnitude, and of such a nature as is fitted to awaken the sympathies, and to demand the active and energetic support, of all members of our Church who truly love their country and who have had compassion for the souls of men. And yet it is a scheme which has not commanded that universal interest and support which might reasonably have been expected, and which the urgency of the claims upon it require. It has been crippled and restricted in its operations, not by the want of opportunities for usefulness, nor by the want of agents to undertake the work, but by the want of means necessary for the prosecution of its labours.

For some years it has been felt that the great and peculiar field for the operation of this scheme is among the irreligious and neglected masses of our large towns. It is there that the danger is most pressing, and the need of missionary effort is most urgently felt. Hitherto, however, comparatively little has been accomplished in this department. It is true that this promising and most necessitous field of labour has not been utterly neglected. In most, if not all the large towns, something has been doing for the evangelization of their irreligious population. These efforts have been made, not so much through the instrumentality of the General Assembly's Committee, as by the spontaneous movement of individual congregations. They have not, however, been made on a scale of sufficient magnitude, nor with a direct view to the establishment of completely-equipped Christian congregations. Previously to last General Assembly,

the only thing that had been accomplished by the Free Church in this way was the establishment of the church and schools at the West Port, Edinburgh, and a similar establishment at Holyrood, in the same town.—These have both proved most successful experiments, such as are well fitted to encourage the Free Church to renewed and more extended efforts in the same direction. Both Holyrood and West Port are now nearly self-sustaining Christian congregations; and, in the prosperity which has attended them, God has been very plainly and emphatically inviting the Free Church to enter upon and occupy the field of Christian effort and usefulness.

At last General Assembly a fresh impulse was given to this department of the scheme. The attention of the Church had turned to it for some time previously, and a large number of overtures from all quarters of the country had come up to the Assembly.—This state of things was due very much to what had been done and said in Glasgow, to the revelations of the social and religious condition of a large proportion of its population made by Dr. Buchanan, and to the fact that a proposal had been made then to organize a new Church Building Society to start with a capital of £10,000, to be expended in promoting the erection of places of worship in destitute localities. The Assembly appointed a special Sub-committee to co-operate with parties in Glasgow in the promotion of Church-extension there, and recommend a collection to be made in all the congregations of the Free Church for behoof of this scheme.

The movement did not arrest the progress of the cause in other localities. It rather gave a fresh impulse to that cause, while it helped materially to give a proper form and direction to the efforts which congregations had been making in various localities. Accordingly, we have been delighted to observe, that in Edinburgh the labours of Free St. George's congregation at Fountainbridge, promise soon to be aided by the erection of a Territorial Church there, and the establishment of a thoroughly-equipped congregation. In Dundee, also, some progress has been making. Three of the congregations there united in selecting a destitute district, in providing the funds necessary for the support of a probationer, and in sending forth a Christian agency to aid the probationer in gathering a congregation. These operations have now become so far ripened, that the subscriptions for building a church are nearly all realised, and we may soon expect to see, in that district, a thoroughly-organised congregation.

The operations in Glasgow are on a more extended scale. It was intended they should be so; and for this reason an appeal is to be made to the whole Church to aid the congregations of Glasgow in carrying them forward. If any one should ask the cause of