

for privateering. Every where there is excitement intense and uncontrollable. Both sides at present, at least, have men and money in abundance, but the future is dark and lowering, and we fear that the stars and stripes will not again soon wave over a united Republic. The number of States which has virtually seceded now amounts to 13, with an extent of country amounting to about 800,000 square miles, or about nine times the extent of Great Britain. The effect of this civil war is likely to be most disastrous to England and to the world, and we can only hope that an all-wise and over-ruling Providence may so order it that its issue may tend to the promotion of civil and religious liberty, and the striking down for ever of that moral nightmare, Slavery.

England, amidst all the din of warlike preparations, is busy making ready for her Great Exhibition in 1862. £270,000 have been subscribed, and the building is expected to exceed, both in size and beauty, that of 1851.

Perhaps the leading topic both in the literary and ecclesiastical world is that of the now celebrated volume of "Essays and Reviews," which have created great commotion, and excitement. They are written by clergymen of the Church of England, and advance speculations on the most vital principles of our holy religion, of a more than questionable character, striking at the very root of Christianity. These Essays have been condemned in the strongest manner by the whole bench of Bishops, which has doubtless added much to their notoriety and circulation. Their character is insidiously infidel, but we believe that they will do no permanent injury. Indeed they owe their reputation not so much to any extraordinary ability they possess as to the hostile criticism they have called forth from influential quarters. People are curious to read what has been so sincerely blamed.

We observe that the circulation of Good Words has now reached 50,000. Is there no possibility of subscribers in this part of the world being regularly supplied with this valuable serial?

Mr. Spurgeon's tabernacle has been opened. It is undoubtedly the largest religious building in Great Britain, being seated for 4,200 people. It cost £30,000.

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Secretary.

New Glasgow, 8th April, 1861.

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WM. JACK,

Sec'y & Treasurer.

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