

to be reversed in spiritual optics, and objects increase in magnitude in proportion to the distance. Had we been present in Barbican chapel, London, and been permitted to address the Colonial Missionary Society, then and there celebrating their first anniversary, we might have ventured to say that the 400,000 British subjects in Upper Canada, must have a far larger treasury, to provide the means of education and religious instruction, than any that private benevolence can replenish, divided as it is by the numerous urgent calls that are made upon it; that had Upper Canada, great as its spiritual destitution is, been left to depend on itself or on voluntary benevolence alone, during the last thirty years, it would at this day have differed very little from any one of the territories of unmitigated heathenism; and further we may venture to aver that, even now, were it left to depend entirely on its own Christian liberality, though greatly aided by Colonial Missionary Societies, and devoted females from the States, desiring no more than to be secured in "bread, water, and raiment," its spiritual aspect would be covered in a few years with still darker shades. We rejoice indeed in every such aid. A colony, whose population has swelled in the course of twenty years from 30,000 to 400,000, will absorb its greatest munificence; and after all it will only be as a drop in the bucket. But we rejoice still more that the paternal solicitude of our Sovereign and the British legislature has provided ample means for the education and religious instruction of the people of this colony. All that is wanted is a wise and impartial application of these means, and the blessing of God, to remove that spiritual destitution of which such true and lamentable descriptions were given by some of the speakers in the Barbican chapel. But should it ever so happen that ministers of any Christian order "from the principles they profess," should in this colony league themselves with infidel politicians and the irreligious multitude who support them in the attempt to cancel that national provision which has been made for promoting the higher interests of the people, under the piti-

ful pretence, that these should be left to depend on the precarious donations of private liberality, we would stand amazed at the monstrous and unnatural combination of infidel and Christian zeal directed to one object, the annihilation of the means provided for the religious education of a people,—and that, too, while the fact was meeting them palpably at every point, that private liberality and public endowment combined, could not keep pace with the increase of their spiritual necessities.

#### AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.

Some time ago we referred to the endowment of the Roman Catholic Church in Australia, by his Majesty's government. The following extracts from the despatches on the subject of the Clergy and School Establishments of New South Wales, are copied from the *Sydney Herald*. We give, first, extracts from the despatch addressed to Mr. Stanley, then (1833) Secretary for the colonies, from his Excellency Sir Richard Bourke:—

"I would propose, that wherever a moderate congregation can be collected throughout the colony, and that a subscription shall have been entered into for building a place of worship and minister's dwelling, amounting to a sum not less than £300, upon application an equal sum shall be issued from the colonial treasury in aid of the undertaking: and that the buildings, when completed, and the grounds upon which they stand, whether provided by the subscribers, or granted by the crown, shall be vested in trustees elected by the congregation. These trustees shall have power to dispose of the seats or pews (excepting one-fourth, which shall be reserved as free sittings;) and out of the rents, or by means of voluntary subscriptions, the trustees shall provide for the maintenance of church officers, the repairs of the church, minister's dwelling, church yard, burial-ground, and appurtenances, and the contingent expenses connected with