

he love the congregation with whom he worships and the denomination to which he belongs. The interest and the honour, the strength, the peace and prosperity of the Church should be dearer to us by far than any earthly interest. What are political parties, or voluntary societies, compared with the Church of the living God, which Christ has purchased with His own blood! Has your devotion to the 'body of Christ'—to the "bride, the Lamb's wife"—deepened during the year—so that you abound in this grace also? Few indeed can adopt the words of the Saviour Himself and say that they are consumed with the zeal of God's house. Few indeed have an adequate conception of the claims which the Church has upon all her members. Christ gave Himself for the Church: how far does our love come short of His!

Our Lord expects us, and commands us, to increase from year to year in all the Christian graces and virtues—to grow more like Himself, holy, harmless, undefiled: to add to our sacrifices for His cause, He looks for advancement and expansion. As the individual grows, so should the congregation, so should the church as a whole. We must go forward as to the number of our congregations. Thousands of Presbyterians in these Provinces are still suffering for lack of the means of grace; tens of thousands who are "Nothingarians," or worse, are within reach and call. Surely we are expected to do something for these!

We must go forward in respect to the number of our ministers, both for the sake of the Home field and the Foreign field. Both are suffering now for lack of laborers. Young men, whose desire is to glorify God and bless your fellow men, come forward boldly and earnestly to the help of the Lord against the mighty. The call could scarcely be louder or more pressing than it is now.

The teachers of error, of superstition and infidelity, are much more numerous in our time than ever before. The forces of evil are gathering to battle. The war note sounds already on many a field. Roman Catholic churches are becoming wholly "ultramontane;" Protestant churches are becoming daringly Roman Catholic in dogma and in

ritual. Infidelity has its high priests in Episcopal Cathedrals, and in every walk of science and of public life. Is not this peculiarly a time for an evangelical Presbyterian Church like ours to gird on her armour and take her arms and press forward with redoubled energy and zeal? The responsibility rests neither with the ministers alone nor with the people alone, but with the ministers and the people together. As in the day of battle there is work for the beardless boy and the stalwart giant—for the raw recruit and the grey headed veteran—for the wise general and the impetuous private,—so with us there is scope for the energies, the tastes, the talents and the loving zeal of all. Young men and maidens, boys and girls, saints hoary in the Master's service, saints who have just found that the Lord is gracious,—all can do something,—can do much to advance the glorious cause of our blessed REDEEMER.

COOLIE MARRIAGES.

BY REV. JOHN MORTON, TRINIDAD.

On the 10th of April we had two marriages among Madras coolies. Coolie marriages usually take place in temporary galleries in front of the house, constructed of cocoa-nut leaves and other light materials. In this case there were two galleries, one in front of the house and the other at the back. The marriages followed each other, and were celebrated in different galleries. All things being ready the bridegroom was led away from the house, down the street to the beating of tom toms. Besides stopping frequently on the street, the procession stopped at the houses of friends, some of whom brought out saffron water, dipped their finger in it, and touched the bridegroom's forehead, pronouncing a blessing. Returned to the house, the bride was brought out and the corner of her copra (Hindustani for cloth) tied to the corner of his. They then sat down on a mat, the groom on the left of the bride. A fine cloth, formed into a magnificent turban, sat like a snowy crown on the groom's head. Then he wore the ordinary vest and copra, but new and white as snow—and an additional scarf