

Looking at the world from a Missionary standpoint we have the bright side of the picture presented. From a late book by Dr. Christlieb, entitled "Protestant Foreign Missions" we have selected some statistics indicative of the success which has attended modern missionary enterprise. He says in substance, as follows:—At the close of the last century there were not more than seven Protestant Missionary Societies, now these have increased to seventy in Europe and America alone. At the same time the whole number of male missionaries was one hundred and seventy, to day there are in the employ of the seventy societies over 2,400 ordained Europeans and Americans, hundreds of ordained native preachers, over 23,000 native helpers, catechists, &c., not counting the many female workers and colporteurs of the Bible Societies. He places the number of heathen converts, eighty years ago at 50,000, while to day they have increased to almost 2,000,000. Eighty years ago the total number of evangelical missionary schools was not over seventy, to day they number nearly 12,000, with more than 400,000 scholars. Eighty years ago there existed only about fifty translations of the scriptures, distributed in about five millions copies, to day the Bible, or principal parts have been translated into at least two hundred and twenty-six different languages and dialects. Strange as it is with this bright picture before him he entertains fears in regard to the future, and one of the strongest is, that the growth of the missionary spirit at home may not keep pace with the extension and needs of all the fields abroad. This is a thought demanding the attention of all the churches. The fundamental and self-perpetuating principles of the church are essentially *missionary*, and every individual christian ought to be, in himself and in his work, a true exponent of both principles.

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The question of disestablishment is likely to engage the attention of the British Parliament before many months have passed. This time it is Scotland, the home of Presbyterianism. At a late meeting of the Free Church Commission, a vote of one hundred and twenty-five to twenty, was passed in favor of a complete disestablishment of the old State Church. Should this measure be carried out, then the days of the English establishment are also numbered.

Erastianism in both countries has been a fruitful source of evil to the church, and if disestablishment will result in the destruction of Erastianism it should be hailed with delight by the lovers of pure and undefiled religion everywhere; but if the other extreme, Secularism, be the result, as some would appear to wish, matters will not be improved. The Secular theory of Government—a nation without national religion—is as anti-scriptural and as anti-christian as Erastianism. A Scriptural Establishment, such as existed in Scotland at the time of the Reformation, when the nation held firmly the principles of national religion and yet did not claim control or exercise authority over the Church, is what those who have the good of the Church and nation at heart should labor and pray for. The time will come when "Kings shall be nursing fathers to the Church and Queens nursing mothers."