

satisfaction to you to be assured that the doctrines and methods of our Church are justifying themselves as effectually in the changed and changing England of to-day as they ever did in the days of our fathers; as it is gratifying to us, on the other hand, to observe that this same Methodism is equally acknowledged by God and useful to man in the novel social conditions and national needs of a country like yours. Our attention and energy have of recent years been strenuously applied to home missionary enterprises; and by free resort to new agencies, and fresh strength given to those already existing, we have striven to cope with the evils resulting from disorganized social conditions, and a national life in many ways unnatural and unhealthy. Among yourselves, also, for many years to come, home missionary labors will have to be assiduously and vigorously prosecuted; but your toil in this department may well be more pleasurable and cheerful than ours, since the task that demands your energies, arduous though it may be, is to maintain your Church on the crest of the advancing tide that is bringing to your country ever-growing strength, wealth and influence.

In your valuable Church enlargement and prosperity you will, we doubt not, be watchfully alive to the danger lest the Evil One, who will weave a snare even out of the mercies of God, should betray you into putting too much trust in what may be called ecclesiastical politics. Only in proportion as our Societies are pervaded by the spirit of Christ, at once pure and ardent, and all our members, in humble pursuit after righteousness and fervent zeal for souls, manifest a living faith, can your Church or ours be abidingly fruitful. We gather with satisfaction from your address, and from more recent information of your progress, that you have not taken the prosperity that God has given you as an invitation to "rest and be thankful," but have understood that God's gifts are ever designed to be man's opportunities. We look with hopeful expectation for the unfolding of yet larger divine purposes in your regard, and the outpouring of yet richer blessings than those over which we now so heartily rejoice with you.

Your enlightened and steadfast recognition of the vital importance to your Church and country of sound Scriptural and Christian education and literature, commands our warm admiration. The general and earnest interest which has been aroused among you by the question of University Federation is an indication that you appreciate justly the manifold and serious issues involved in the character of the higher education of the country, and in the relation sustained by religion to science, philosophy and culture. While, on the one hand, it is injurious to stamp upon education a sectarian impress, it is, on the other hand, fatal to let it lack a living and pervasive Christian influence; and called, as you are, by the position God has given you, to minister to the more advanced and cultured classes of society among you, as well as to those of smaller knowledge and narrower opportunities, it behoves you to maintain with jealous guardianship your influence in connection with the higher education of the country.

Your zeal for the evangelization of the heathen proves to us that you bear the true family likeness of the Methodist stock, and are ambitious to claim your share of our Founder's "parish." And we are thankful for the wise instinct and the guiding Providence that have led you to add to

your
Japan
nation
plasti
gladd
tude,
primi
task,
other,
is imp
contra
ment
visit t
in you
your
compe
We
Christ
the go
that th
in Him
We
D.D., v
Confer
who h
Ireland
adviser
You
nical g
to asser
the opp
and wi
intimat
We
one tow
Sign

BRIST