

in one word, for the many counteracting circumstances which prevent the tendencies of sin from ripening into their full and bitter fruits—even *here* the lot of the wicked would be intolerable; and all amongst us in whom sin is the reigning tyrant, would be forced from bitter experience to acknowledge that it was the dominion of suffering, and sorrow, and vexation of spirit. As it is, every act of present sin is an addition to the store of future misery: every instance of wilful disobedience to God is receding a step farther from Him the true centre of happiness. It is a strengthening of the barrier of separation; and by weakening the sense of moral obligation, scars the conscience, confirming the dominion of evil lusts, and banishing the last remnants of expiring virtue and holiness, urges us forward to that ultimate point of depravity which causes the Spirit of God to take his final departure from us, and consummates our alliance with the tenants of hell. And when we see so many around us who sin with a high hand and unblushing brow; so many whom no obstacles can arrest, no means subdue, whom neither the ministry of the word, nor the dispensations of Providence, nor the strivings of the Spirit, nor the remonstrances of their own consciences, have been able to arouse—who, on the contrary have, like the ground often trodden, become more and more hardened, till the truths which could once awe even *them*, are now profanely despised—have we not before us in them living examples of hell not merely begun on earth, but of fearful progress towards its consummation! Of all who are in this melancholy hopeless state, we may say with the apostle that they are “*nigh unto cursing.*”

To be continued.

## MISSIONARY AND ECCLESIASTICAL INTELLIGENCE.

### THE DESTITUTION OF MINISTERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The following melancholy picture of the effects of the present commercial difficulties upon the funds of the AMERICAN HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY,\* and consequently on the comfort of the ministers and missionaries depending upon them, is given in a late number of the New York Observer. The object of this Society is to assist small congregations throughout the United States in maintaining their ministers. There are at present upwards of 500 ministers and missionaries to whom it grants pecuniary aid:—

The Committee have been compelled to notify the Missionaries of the existing embarrassments, and to request them to withhold their drafts on the treasury for the present, and pledging our efforts for their payment at the earliest practicable moment. In taking this step, the Committee had no alternative. To suffer the drafts to come in when the means of meeting them were wanting, would be to add to the bitterness of disappointment the dishonour of a protest. The letter conveying this decision has now, probably, reached every corner of the land, and is producing its afflicting though unavoidable results in many a worthy family of the self-denying ministry of our feeble and frontier churches. Some of them have written in reply, detailing the em-

\*Of the missionaries and agents employed by the Society, including seventeen in France, 57 were in commission at the commencement of the year, a large proportion of whom have been re-appointed and are still in the service of the Society, and 232 appointments have been made, making the whole number aided within the year, including twenty-four in France, under the care of the Evangelical Societies of Paris and Geneva, 410, which is an increase of thirty-eight laborers beyond the number employed during the previous year. Of those, 395 are settled as pastors, or employed as stated supplies in single congregations, and 191 extend their labors, either as pastors or stated supplies, to two or three congregations each, and twenty-four, including agents, are employed on larger fields.

The receipts during the year, including a balance of \$14,460 15 in the treasury from the previous year, were \$100,631 71. The balance remaining in the treasury is \$1,102 02.