

Christ and His Gospel our system will become a poorer and more contemptible thing than Romanism itself. Our strength will be but weakness and our glory but shame.

As a Christian people let us thank God for the elements of strength with which He has endowed us—our numbers and wealth, our educated ministry, our intelligent and large-hearted people, our Confession and Presbyterian system; but after all let us own that God is our strength, and that only as we abide in Christ and are inspired with love to Him and zeal for Him we shall be strong, and dwell in the land.

THE POWER OF LITTLES.

When the Erskines left the Established Church of Scotland more than a hundred years ago, little did they think that the organization which they founded, the movement which they originated, would last and extend until its influence should be felt in every quarter of the globe. How the hearts of those fathers would rejoice did they but know that in 1869 their spiritual children saved thousands of Hindus from death by famine and carried to them the Gospel of peace! How astonished would they be to think that in one year the funds for Foreign Missions alone would be more than £30,000.

Little could Wesley and Whitfield imagine that the influence of their work should be so far-reaching and wonderful. Great as the tree of "Methodism" is, it is still extending—spreading forth its branches and striking its roots deeper into the soil. As a more recent illustration we may point to the work of the Haldanes in England and Scotland, but especially in Geneva. To Haldane's readings in the Greek Testament the Church of Christ owes such men as Vinet and D'Aubigne, and other men whose influence for good has been incalculable to their own and other countries.

A still more recent instance is furnished by the history of the Free Church. Who could have thought in 1843 that the contributions of that Church in Scotland alone would in 1869 reach the splendid aggregate

of nearly *Nine Millions Sterling!* This sum itself is a wonderful illustration of the "power of littles." The half pence of the poor have had their part in the result as well as the thousands of the rich. Great movements, grand results always depend on a "multitude of littles." It is in gathering up the fragments that nothing may be lost, that the wisdom of churches is most strikingly manifest; and it is on this point that our church needs to be thoroughly roused. Had not the churches which we have named economized and gathered in the "littles"—had they not cared for small congregations and individuals and families however widely scattered,—the results now apparent could never have been attained.—And now we see the Irish Presbyterian Church, and other churches profiting by the lesson read to them by the experience of the United Presbyterian and the Free Churches. We see politicians and statesmen compelled to notice the economics of poor "dissenters"—compelled to mould their policy in deference to the results of Christian principles, even if they lay but little stress upon the principles themselves.

To remember the "power of littles"—to "gather up the fragments"—to utilize all the wealth of learning, zeal, piety, devotion and liberality in our church—is now the incumbent duty of those to whom God has given a call to lead His flock. Let us pray that God may give needed wisdom to our Ministers and Elders, to the members of our churches, to our Sessions, Presbyteries and Synod. Under the fostering care of the Head of the Church the little one shall become a thousand. Our Church, small and weak as she is in many places, will yet be a source of blessing to myriads. If we all do our work—if the energies and talents of all are called forth—who can tell the results that may appear to reward us? Our country is comparatively new; it is capable of sustaining an immensely increased population; it is apparently destined to be populous and rich and influential; and it is for us now so to labour, so to occupy our posts, that our power for good shall be felt with ever-increasing benefit throughout the whole life-time of the country. A sapling with