

the sake of their religion; and have submitted to it all rather than renounce the faith of their fathers. And as you would convert ten thousand sons of Canaan into nominal Christians sooner than a single conscientious son of Abraham, so also for the true conversion of Israel there must be, as compared with the heathen, either an extraordinary work of the Spirit of God, or else a far longer time in the use of the ordinary means.

### PRESBYTERIANISM IN IRELAND.

Never before did Presbyterianism exercise so wide-spread an influence or manifest so much life as at the present moment. In Canada, in Australia, in New Zealand, in all the British Colonies the Presbyterian Churches are energetically at work, consolidating, uniting, extending. In the United States the same fact is observable. A reunion of the Old and New Schools is projected and will probably be accomplished.—Congregations and mission stations now extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Just seventy five years ago the first Presbyterian General Assembly met in Philadelphia.—The Church then numbered 188 ministers and 419 churches. The ministers now number 4500 and the churches 5000. Equally hopeful is the progress of Presbyterianism in the British Isles. By way of illustration we give the following extract of a speech made before the late English Synod by a delegate from the Irish Assembly.—

The Home Mission was their first-born mission. Like the disciples, they began at Jerusalem; they began amongst their own household of faith. When Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, found Christ, he first findeth his own brother Simon, and brought him to Jesus. As it was with that individual Christian, so also with the church in its collective capacity; so with the Presbyterian Church of Ireland. She had peculiarly found Christ, of whom men sought to rob her, and having pressed him to her heart, she first found her own brethren, the scattered members of the household of faith, and formed them into congregations to dispense ordinances, and break among them the bread of life. This mission, which was in reality their Church extension mission, had been crowned by God with a large measure of success.

He did not allude to the many isolated congregations in Ulster, which had been fostered into life, but to the South and West of Ireland, where popery was the

most prevalent. A few years ago the province of Connaught, in which he lived, contained only five Presbyterian congregations, or one to each county, and they were small and feeble. Now they had twenty-one settled, organized congregations. They had, in addition to these, thirty-three missionary stations in which the Gospel was regularly preached, and the ordinances administered. In Dublin, Cork, and Athlone, they had now forty seven congregations, in the place of twenty-three a few years ago: and he might say for the congregations in Connaught, as well as the others he had mentioned, that they had not only suitable Churches, but most of them manse, and a great many of them schools in connection with the Churches. Before the famine, the entire Presbyterian population of the three Provinces—Leinster, Munster, and Connaught—forming more than three-fourths of Ireland, was 4521; and now, a few years after the famine, it was 17,620; *showing an increase of three and a half fold* during the time when all other religious denominations were rapidly declining.

To give an example of the mode of progress, he would mention a few facts. When he was sent to Ballinasloe, it was found to contain six names, these being the real constituents of the congregation, if it might be called one; but by the good hand of God, the six had increased to sixty. They had enlarged their place of worship and erected a manse, raising in three years the sum of £1170; and not only so, but that congregation had given birth to another, which promised to be as healthy and vigorous as the parent.

In a neighbouring county, one of the very largest in Ireland, and celebrated among other things for its political contests, being the first that returned the celebrated Daniel O'Connell to Parliament, and being known as an intensely Popish county—he meant the county of Clare—up to the year 1853, *there was not in it a single Presbyterian*. He was induced to visit the chief town and neighbourhood. He spoke to a few friends who were willing to fall in with the idea; and within twelve months a congregation was formed and organized and a minister ordained. Within twelve months more a church and manse were erected, both of which are now free from debt! More than this, the minister at Ennis, the chief town of Clare, had opened a mission station in a town twenty miles distant from him in the same county, a town the name of which was well known throughout England, he might say throughout the world, because of the horrible scenes which occurred there during the famine. He referred to the town of Kilrush. The mission station thus opened was now an organized Church with a settled minister. Professor Gibson, a native