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PROGRESS OF THE REDEEMER'S KINGDOM DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Much of the work of Christ is necessarily hidden from the eye of man. The good seed germinates in the darkness; and it lives and grows perhaps long before we can see any evidence of vitality. But there are signs of progress and of retrogression in Christian work, concerning which we can hardly be mistaken. We dare not indulge in statistics of true conversions. We do not presume to search the heart. Still less would we sit in judgment on this and that branch of the universal Church, and venture to say that one is doing its duty while another fails. Our field of observation is simply external: if we judge the tree we judge humbly by its fruit, bearing in mind all the while how liable we are to err.

Looking at ENGLAND, we cannot speak of much progress. A stupendous revolution is certainly going on, and the forces of truth and error were never in more exasperated conflict. The traditional Protestantism of the Established Church has been assailed by rationalism and Romanism, both from within and from without. The traitor and the open foe are alike active. Colenso is still the legal Bishop of Natal, but a voluntary Bishop has been appointed by the ecclesiastical authorities, so that now there is actual and formal schism in the English Church. We do not venture to predict how far it may extend; but it certain that to a large proportion of the people Episcopalianism is becoming more irksome every year, and that Church independence

has an unusual number of ardent advocates. Ominous, indeed, are the conflicting movements now going on within the Church of England—Rationalism, Ritualism, rank Popery, rampant Infidelity, and covert Atheism; but withal the Gospel is faithfully preached in thousands of her pulpits, and within her pale are multitudes of the best of men. Happily Evangelical Dissent was never more healthy and vigorous; and the Presbyterian Church has exhibited unwonted vigour in London and elsewhere throughout the kingdom.

SCOTLAND has been the scene of remarkable triumphs of the Gospel among the sunken masses of the large cities, and also among the fishermen along the coasts. The Union movement was the most noteworthy feature of the Scottish ecclesiastical world. Latterly an earnest opposition has been organized in the Free Church which may retard if not prevent the Union. The appointment of Dr. DUFF as Professor of Evangelistic Theology is a sign of the times,—which shows the increasing importance attached to the evangelization of the heathen, and the due preparation of agents for the noble work. A vigorous Anti Patronage movement has at length sprung up in the Established Church.

IRELAND was the scene of increasing political and politico-religious agitation. The Establishment appears to be doomed to speedy overthrow, and the Presbyterian *Regium Donum* may have to be swept away with it. It is not likely that the spiritual life of either of these churches would suffer by the change.—Romanism has held its