

can scarcely say so, but yet the year has not been without its fruit. The Bible and Missionary Society has been extending successfully its vast ramifications over almost every quarter of the globe. While a portion of the Anglican Church has been zealous in overloading its services with gorgeous and puerile ceremonies, stifling Christianity under a weight of unmeaning forms, another and a better portion is full of spiritual life and activity. During the past year, for the first time, we have seen the Bishop of the vast Diocese of London, one of the most accomplished scholars of the day, visiting and preaching to the poor, and in addition to the labors of his high office, foremost in every good word and work. This we consider a good sign of the times. But we have many others. Who has not read with admiration of the generous gift of £25,000 by a noble Christian lady, Miss Burdett Coutts, supplemented by many others, for the purpose of planting the Gospel in our new Colony of Columbia; a colony as large as France and Ireland united, and where it is said there are more than 70,000 Indians in a state of pagan ignorance. To win these degraded, but free denizens of the wilderness to Christ, would be worthy even of a greater effort. By the wild and semi-savage adventurers from California they have been shot down like game, and are consequently very hostile to the Americans. The Bishop elect of Columbia, in a most eloquent and interesting speech, delivered at a great meeting in London, related an anecdote of these children of nature, to the effect that an English vessel being wrecked on the shores of Vancouver, the unfortunate crew fell into the hands of the Indians, who were about to massacre them, thinking they were *Bostons*, but that as soon as they discovered them to be English, treated them with every kindness, carried them in their canoes to Victoria, and would accept no recompense. Such is the value of a good name. What success may we not expect with a people, at present so affected towards us? May our Episcopal brethren, as they are first in the field, reap a large and speedy harvest!

Of the Dissenting bodies in Great Britain, we have not much to record. Each one, in its own way, is at least maintaining its ground, and in many instances making large and successful inroads into the kingdom of darkness.

The effort made in Scotland by certain parties to effect a union between the United Presbyterian and Free Church has resulted in failure. It was supported, we believe, by a very large proportion of the clergy of both Churches; but the people were cold, and even hostile, and the idea has been, for the present at least, abandoned. Sir George Sinclair, an eminent Free Churchman, and favorable to the movement, has expressed an opinion, that the Free Church will ultimately return to the bosom of the Establishment. We trust he

may become a true prophet, and that we may live to see our respected brethren in Christ one with us as before.

The efforts of the Free Church, both at home and abroad, have been and are great and beneficent, and well worthy of our imitation; but even their friends look with some anxiety to the future. They begin to feel their position a somewhat precarious one, that the efforts made by the people, though wonderful, are efforts, and sometimes spasmodic efforts too, and they cannot tell when they may partially fail. No indications of the kind have been given as yet, and we are not among the number who wish them anything but unbroken prosperity.

At length we come to our own Church, our beloved Zion, in our father land. Here, we are happy to say, we behold life and health and fruit. Never could the Church of Scotland point to her motto, "*Nec tamen consumebatur*," with a more trusting feeling than now. She is like a noble river, smooth and gentle in her course, but widening and deepening as she rolls down the stream of time. The watchmen on her towers are worthy of the fame of her best days, and it is a remarkable fact, that while among the dissenting bodies few if any rising men are taking a first rank place—in the Church of Scotland they constitute the bone and sinew, the hope and pride of the august body. No youthful Chalmers, or Candlish, or Gordon, so far as we are aware, appears to take the place of those intellectual giants, while in our own Church, among our own men since '43, we have a Caird, a Principal Tulloch, a McLeod, a McDuff, and others whose fame is known throughout all the Churches. We will not stop to inquire into the cause of this; we are satisfied and we rejoice in the fact. Nor are her veterans idle. The success of Dr. Robertson's Home Mission scheme, the immense sum of money he has collected and is still collecting, prove at once the remarkable enthusiasm and perseverance of the man, and how firmly seated after all the old Church is in the affections of the people.

We must now beg our readers' attention to our own little corner of the vineyard. Have we been cultivating that portion of it which our Master has allotted us, to the best of our ability, like faithful and devoted servants? It would be gross presumption in us to answer in the affirmative; yet we have not been altogether idle. We have done *something* if not enough. Let us point out briefly what this something is, and close this article with one or two reflections.

First perhaps in point of importance, during the past year, is the opening for public worship of the new St. Matthew's Church in Halifax. This noble sacred edifice, by far the finest in the Lower Provinces, was built, as our readers are aware, to supply the place of the old church, which after a hundred years' service was burned down on the evening of