

ties; and last not least, a band of lady missionaries finding their way into the homes and hearts of their sisters—these are some of the influences unfalteringly at work in the heart of the Turkish empire.

THE AGE, AND OUR WORK IN IT.

The address from the Chair of the English Congregational Union, at Huddersfield, by the Rev. J. G. Rogers, was, as it was to be expected, a most masterly effort, in every way worthy of the occasion, and of the man. It is too long for us to be able to give our readers even an outline of the multifarious topics discussed, having occupied nearly two hours in the delivery. But we feel that we must give them at least a few extracts, as a *taste* of the good things contained in it.

Choosing for his subject "The Age, and our Work in it," after some introductory sentences he says:

"The condition of society at present, in its relations to religious thought and life is sufficient to stir the holy ambition of every man whose own faith in the Gospel makes him jealous of its honour and intent on its triumph. Possibly there are some who would say that it is enough to justify anxiety, if not alarm; and where there is a desire to anticipate not only the final issue, but all the steps of the process by which it is to be reached, or an impatience of all delay, which may easily be mistaken for a zeal whose only fault is that it is too impassioned, but which is really to be traced to a weakness of faith, that begins to doubt when it is required to wait, such feelings are pretty sure to arise. But surely the true Christian heart, which believes, and therefore does not make haste, can contemplate the wild excitements, the heated controversies, and even the daring infidelities of the age with a very different sentiment.

CHRISTIAN CONFIDENCE.

There are times when, standing on an exposed shore at the climax of a tempest, listening to the thunder of the waves, or watching them as they career in their wild fury and resistless power, we might fancy that we were on the eve of some terrible catastrophe in Nature. But it does not need even a living faith in God to inspire the confidence that the peril is not so great as appears, and that though some injury may be inflicted upon a district and upon individuals, the sea will soon return within its appointed bounds, the waves be calm and still, the earth smile once more in verdure and beauty, and a sky, on which not a solitary cloud appears, spread its azure canopy over all—that a few brief hours will suffice so to transform the whole aspect of Nature, that it will be difficult in the perfect peace which reigns around to recall the memory of the tempest, or to understand the anxiety which for a moment it awakened. A knowledge of, and faith in, the laws of Nature will enable a man, even in the crisis of the fiercest cyclone, quietly to watch its course with all coolness, to discuss its genesis, and with absolute confidence to anticipate its issues. It cannot be that we, as Christian men, have less faith in the promises and purposes of God relative to His Gospel. As in the natural world, the storm may threaten, may even be fatal to some house built on an outstanding cliff, which seems to court the attack it is unable to resist, but on the solid earth makes no impression; so in the spiritual, the rude waves may sweep away many of our cherished traditions and beliefs, but it is only as we identify these with the Gospel, and vainly fancy that the destruction of the one means the overthrow of the other, that we can look doubtfully to the future and its possibilities. Tempests which mingle earth and sea there may be, will be, so that it might sometimes seem as though another Æolus had unlocked his cave, and the unfettered winds, rejoicing in their unwonted freedom, had rushed out to do their worst. Even things that are esteemed strong may be roughly shaken, and appear ready to perish, and many of them may actually perish; but our communion with the Master must have been slight, and our trust in Him must be imperfect, if we can