

common society there; and all these elements are crowded together in a way which gives to the communication of evil a fearful advantage. If, therefore, we would save our countrymen from the contamination of such a state of things,—if we would preserve our sons and daughters from its evil influences,—if we would save society itself from dissolution, from perishing in its own corruption,—if we would save that country from becoming another Sodom,—cursed instead of blessed with its riches and fulness of bread, we must hasten thither with the blessed gospel, which is the light of the world and the salt of the earth,—we must seek to leaven the whole mass with that Word of Truth which is the hope of nations, as well as of individuals.

But we will take too narrow a view of these new regions of the earth, and of our own duty in reference to them, if we confine ourselves to the present. We must look beyond, to the wide-spread regions waiting to be filled, and to the future state and character of those who fill these regions. We see what God is doing; but no one can tell what he designs to do, either in Australia, or for it, or by it in the earth. Evidently great things are in store for that land.—Great nations and great events are there casting their shadows before them. And the rapidity of all that has passed makes us feel that nothing is impossible, or almost improbable, as to their speedy development. Sir, in the whole of Australia, in the year 1810, the British settlers amounted to only 10,000, and so recently as 1828 to no more than 36,000. They are now estimated at 500,000. But a few years since, Sydney was a very inconsiderable place; now it is a capital with 70,000 inhabitants, and surrounded on all sides with a corresponding territory. But fourteen years ago, South Australia was scarcely known, now it has a regularly built capital with 20,000 inhabitants, and a large and beautiful back country rapidly filling with villages and towns. Sixteen years ago, Melbourne was but a few scattered houses in a desolate neighbourhood; three years ago the province, of which it is the capital, was only a pendicle of New South Wales; now Melbourne is a city, emulating in numbers, and far exceeding both in fixed and floating wealth this ancient city, which has taken so many centuries to rise. Of that one city the rental is upwards of a million sterling per annum; and besides all weekly supplies, there come into it not fewer than £40,000 from 70,000 diggers every week.—And then there is no natural limit to this. This country, though it be called an island, is an island of continental dimensions. It is as large as Europe. The soil is far more productive. The climate ripens any fruit, and brings to perfection every grain. The precious metals still increase; and the resources and boundless possessions on which

they may be laid out in every convenience of civilized society, as the population increases, only begin to be known. Eastern Australia contains 30,000 square miles.—South Australia itself extends 834 miles in length, and 533 in breadth, and rejoices in two hundred millions of acres—an acre to each of two hundred millions of soul.—Western Australia is still larger in dimensions; and beyond, you have Tasmania, equal in size and beauty to either England or Ireland. Line after line of these vast territories will come to be taken up and planted with cities, villages, and dwellings of men, who will transplant to them the wealth, the advancement, and the manners matured in the Old World.

And here is the grand peculiarity of their position and ours. The infancy of these future nations is committed to us. The formation of their character, for good or for evil, is put into our hands. We have their training, when only that can be accomplished either in nations or individuals—in their youth. And this, either in the one or the other, can be done to any good purpose only by imparting to them that gospel which has the promise both of this life and of that which is to come. As we succeed or fail in this, there will rise there a well-ordered and well-conditioned population, carrying the improvements, the religion, the morality, the civil and religious liberty, the benevolence and beneficence of Britain, into these wide regions, or the reverse of all this,—Christian communities, or communities lapsed into heathenism;—a North America, with its freedom, and without its dark blot of slavery—or a South America, with its transplanted ignorance and superstition;—a New Britain, with all the exuberant fruitfulness of a richer soil—or the miserable abortions of Popery, Puseyism, and infidelity, with all their dire and dreadful progeny of ignorance, poverty, and crime: And surely no exertions can be too great to be made—no sacrifice too expensive to be given—to secure that it may be the first, and not the last. (Great applause.) Whatever we may do, other parties see the importance, and are seeking possession of this glorious country,—of its present, and of its future.—Infidelity is eager to lay its chilling and deadly hand on its fair fields. The blasting and polluted pages of the infidel press are, alas! often the first-fruits of printing which reach the most distant settlements, and leave among the wilds of a remote and pastoral country that poison which destroys every hope of man. The Church of Rome is unwearied in its efforts; and by armies of priests, and all their attendant means, endeavours to shut out the light for ever from the virgin soil. Puseyism, with its effete and diluted Popery, offers a form of religion to those who seek no more; and surely it is high time for all who love the truth to hasten to a land so beset by the darkest