

that great advances have been made in many departments of christian enterprise, and are now being made in increasing ratio every year. In many directions a spirit of unity is manifested, and made the ground work of conjoint operations against the common enemy. The Bible Society and kindred associations flourish with unparalleled prosperity. New missionary organizations are being formed and fresh fields of labour entered upon. Still, a slight examination of the real state of things, reveals to us how much has yet to be accomplished ere our Redeemer shall triumph over the powers of darkness. The number of His faithful subjects is still small compared with the ranks of His enemies. Of the 800 millions who people our globe, nearly two thirds are Pagan : a fifth part are Mahomedans : only about a sixth bear the name of Christian ; and, of these, by far the greater proportion are the benighted devotees of the Greek and Romish churches. Even in Protestant countries, to how small a number is the true church of Christ reduced : the faithful are proverbially few, and rarely are they to be found in the majority ! How much then has yet to be done in the overthrow of Paganism and Mahomedauism abroad, of infidelity and multiform error nearer home, and in the evangelization of the degraded masses around us. Even at the present increasing rate of progress, long years of patient toil must be accomplished before Christianity can be said to be in the ascendant, not to speak of her complete and final victory, when "All enemies shall be put under His feet." "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, 'know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, said the Lord."

In the face of these facts, the advocates of the views referred to, instead of confessing any error in their principles of interpretation, or exhibiting any diminution of their confidence, exhibit fresh ingenuity in the adjustment of apparent inconsistencies and contradictions in their darling scheme. Thus, on the one hand, the universality and thoroughness of the promised triumph of truth is sought to be toned down by suggesting that the gospel need only be preached in all lands "as a witness against them," in order to the fulfilment of the prediction ; while, on the other hand, the protracted delay is referred, as on many former occasions, to the convenient vagueness of chronology. Our object is not now to combat these views ; but we cannot refrain from remarking that the great confidence, exhibited on the part of some divines in high position, is much to be regretted, on account of the dishonour it necessarily brings upon prophetic truth in the eyes of unreflecting and sceptical men. Surely the whole history of prophetic interpretation should teach us how humble we should be in our efforts to penetrate the mysteries of futurity, and how unwise it is to dogmatize as to the details of time, place, and method. We do not say this to dissuade from the study of prophecy, but rather to give a different tone and more profitable direction to these investigations. Though it may be misdirected, our interest cannot be too great in the prospects of the cause and kingdom of Christ, and the glorious promises of universal dominion given Him by the Father.

At this present juncture in the history of the Church should we not turn anew reverently, humbly, fervently to enquire, "Why tarry the wheels of His chariot ?" What is it that so mightily impedes the progress of this heaven-born, heaven-equipped christianity ? Eighteen centuries have passed away since the atonement was made, the Spirit in his fulness given, and the Gospel proclaimed to the Gentile world, why then is there still such an appalling disproportion between the dominions of Christ and of the prince of darkness ? It seems to us that the present is a fitting time  
o press these inquiries upon the prayerful reflection of "all who love the