

made for meeting the educational wants of an increasing population. The melancholy but natural results have been, a gradual diminution of domestic comfort, an evident progress in demoralization, and an increase of crime, and a state of society in which the different classes, instead of acting as if they felt that each had an interest in the welfare and prosperity of the other, are drawing apart and assuming an attitude towards each other of positive hostility.

Awakened both to a sense of danger and to a perception of duty, the Church of Scotland endeavoured, through the contributions of her people, to supplement the educational provision which had been felt to be so inadequate, and had made considerable progress both in the erection of additional schools, and in raising the standard of qualification for teachers, when her position came to be most materially affected by the well known event of the Disruption.—Having declined to hold the benefits of an establishment which could now be enjoyed only on conditions which were inconsistent with her liberty as a Church of Christ, the Free Church, notwithstanding her altered circumstances, not only herself professed to hold, but was recognised by other bodies as holding those principles for which the Church of Scotland in former times had zealously and successfully struggled. Many indeed, might have supposed, as some still think, that the Presbyterian Church here holding the principles of the Church of Scotland, had no call to take any part in the disputes which had convulsed the Church at home; yet did they find that the question was forced upon them whether they would or not.—In saying this, I refer to the fact that the circumstances of the country here have not yet placed the Church in a state of independence upon assistance from the mother country. The supplies granted were indeed far from meeting the demand, but still assistance to a considerable amount had been sent out, farther assistance was still required, and independently altogether, therefore, of what might have been a natural expression of sympathy, in a case which had attracted the attention of the universal Church, the Presbyterian Church here felt itself necessitated to take up a decided position, and to declare which of the bodies at home, whether the Establishment or the Free Church, they were to correspond with as their Mother Church, and to look to for the further supplies of which they stand in need. The Free Church here accordingly declared, that they could not recognize the body now enjoying the benefits of the Establishment at home, as the proper representative of those whose struggles in former ages had, in the providence of God, secured those privileges which they had handed down to their descendants. They declared their approval of the conduct, and their adherence to the principles of the Free Church, and addressed a call to her for assistance. That call has not been addressed in vain. Assistance has been rendered from time to time, and, amidst the efforts which she is making to uphold religious ordinances amongst her own people, and to continue, and, as far as possible, to extend her operations for diffusing the light of the Gospel, whether among Jews or Gentiles, the Free Church, in her present mission, now lends her aid to the erection of a College in this city, with the view of enabling the Church here to rear within her own bounds those to whom she may look for the future supply of ministerial services.