

ready to acknowledge that "neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth?" Have we been fixing our attention too exclusively upon *that* Mission and undervaluing other fields equally important? Or have any been allowing the Foreign Mission to engross their attention to the neglect of other measures of great, if not of equal, importance to the prosperity of Christ's kingdom? At all events, in the fact that that Mission has been so signally afflicted, have we not reason to enquire whether our error has not been on *that* point—that we may have been allowing some feeling approaching to idolatry to enter our minds regarding that undertaking, and thus incurring the displeasure of Him who has said that the idols he will utterly abolish?

Still we cannot help feeling that there is mercy in the form in which these afflictions have come. How much worse might have befallen us! What if God had suffered some root of bitterness to spring up in the Church at home, and thereby many were defiled? How much more reason would we have for sadness than at present, if God had sent among us a spirit of jealousy and strife? What wonder would there have been, if when two bodies come together, between which there had been in the past some jealousies and rivalries, these had broken out in alienation of feeling and vain jangling—a result in some quarters so earnestly desired, and to secure which there has been so much blowing among the ashes of the dead and buried controversies, in the hopes of finding some embers which might be fanned into a flame. What if God had suffered heresy to spring up among us? How much more painful would any of these things be than what we now experience!

Nay, we believe that God will employ these dispensations to knit us more closely together. There is no stronger cement of earthly attachment than communion in sorrow. Sons have buried all their animosities at the grave of a parent, and the parents, who have mingled their tears over the bier of their little one, have felt their hearts drawn to one another by new and tenderer bonds than ever before. And we doubt not that the Churches now happily united will, in the exercise of that sympathy by which, "if one member suffer all the members suffer with it," feel themselves still more closely drawn together, as they indulge a common grief over these afflictive events.

What abundant reasons for thankfulness has God given us in the midst of these trials! Without attempting to enumerate the unnumbered mercies vouchsafed to the Mission during its past history, we must particularly notice some that are mingled in the present cup. What reason have we for gratitude to the Preserver of men that this is the first death among our agents during the fifteen years that have elapsed since Mr. Geddie left our shores! They have travelled many thousands of miles by sea and by land—they have been exposed among savages on islands, either stained with the blood of the servants of the Lord, or from which they have been fugitives for their lives. They have been among "the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noonday." But hitherto their lives have been spared. How rarely have Missions in tropical climes enjoyed such exemption from the ravages of the great destroyer! In Missions closely associated with our own, how soon had death his commission! Mr. Paton has been called to mourn over wife and child, while the Mission on the Loyalty Islands had scarcely been established as many months as ours has been years, till it was visited by a similar affliction in the death of Mrs. Creagh. Let us sing then of mercy as well as judgment.

Nor should we forget God's goodness to us as a Church in the grace bestowed upon his young servant just called to his reward. When we think of all the faith and self denial manifested by him in his devoted labours in life, and