

could thus lay hold of the sympathies and affections of the people, and thus accomplish easily an effectual work. He should like to know that there were 1,000 such men at work all over England. There ought to be some in connexion with every church; and if the conviction to which Mr. Rogers had referred were only lodged thoroughly in the hearts of ministers and members, the question of money would soon be settled. He did not know what was to become of the western counties, if Lancashire or Yorkshire did not help them. He felt that this was the great subject of the day. A vastly greater number of people were living in neglect of religion than were giving heed to it. Therefore they ought to wake up and provide a new agency. He was thankful for the Evangelist movement; and he would hail with satisfaction any agency by which they could reach the people. They seemed really forgetful of the tremendous necessities by which in many districts they were surrounded. The extent of heathenism in London was appalling. They wanted thousands of pounds a-year to support personal consecration such as they had never witnessed. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

The efficiency of Bible-women was also dwelt upon by Mr. Ranyard and Rev. Mr. Reed, of Preston.

The great effect which the Bicentenary celebration has had upon *Chapel Building* was shewn in the report of Rev. J. C. Gallaway, the Secretary of the "English Congregational Chapel Building Society." It appeared that the number of Chapels already opened this year, or projected with a moral certainty of being opened within three years, was 300, giving 165,000 sittings, at an estimated cost of £495,000. Another speaker gave, unofficially, the following statistics:

In 1856 there were 37 Congregational chapels erected in England and Wales, 31 in 1857, 38 in 1858, and 70 in 1859, being a total of 146 chapels in four years, or an average of nearly one every week. During the past year the ratio had increased to nearly three every fortnight. If, however, the population of London went on increasing, there would be necessity for every chapel that could be built to accommodate the wants of the people. Seventeen churches in London had rebuilt their chapels during those thirteen years at a cost of about £30,000, and the London Society had purchased, built, or aided others to build forty-nine chapels at a cost of about £141,200. Six chapels were either in progress or projected during one year at a cost of £24,000, and four of the number were aided by the society. The society had also purchased Tottenham-court-road Chapel by auction, thus saving that honoured edifice to the denomination. Altogether, the society had called into existence 73 chapels at a cost of £258,000.

The *Distress in Lancashire*, as might be expected, formed a prominent topic of conversation. It was introduced by an able paper read by Mr. Henry Lee, who from personal knowledge and observation contradicted the statements widely circulated, that the employers had been unmindful of the sufferings of their workpeople; he also gave several reasons why the Congregational fund should be continued, and gave details of its disposal, with suggestions for its increase, the principal of which was based on the system of weekly contributions. Since the meeting, the distress has become so much greater and more widely spread, that it will need the most self-denying efforts of all who are able to help to prevent the coming winter witnessing one of the most terrible pictures of distress and suffering which England has ever known. Well might the Rev. A. Reed suggest the propriety of

Setting a part a day of solemn and earnest prayer and intercession before God for peace in America and returning prosperity to Lancashire. He would also venture to suggest—remembering the last chapter in the book which his father had presented to the Union on his return from America—whether they could not address their brethren in the North, eye and in the South too, in words of Christian earnestness, entreating them to use their influence for the speedy termination of so disastrous a conflict.