

this advanced hour of detaining this audience, and must therefore do nothing more than offer a few remarks, as it is desirable that the effort to which you have referred, Sir, in reference to Japan, should be undertaken. Indeed it is extremely difficult in our day to bring the subject of Missions before any congregation in any new light; and yet men come to these gatherings like the Athenians of old to hear some new thing. Men do not now need to be told that there is "no other name under heaven given among men whereby we can be saved, but the name of Christ;" need not be told that individuals, families, and nations become happy, prosperous, and useful, just in proportion as they embrace and obey the gospel; and yet, although this is well known, men come expecting to hear at such meetings something new. Indeed, we find this desire for novelty everywhere. In our furniture, dress, in science, in literature and art. Many years ago the bonnets worn by ladies were very much the shape of coal scuttles; as ornaments for the head they were suitable, and had also an additional advantage in that they served for umbrellas. Why are they not worn to-day? Simply because they are not new. Our furniture is put aside, not because it is faded or useless, but because it is not new. There are those here who, years ago, paid fifty cents postage on letters from one part of this Dominion to another—so wondrous has been the change brought about by the government, that the postage on such letters is now not more than three cents. There are those here whose passage to this country in the old merchant ship occupied five, six, or even eight weeks; the passage is now accomplished in nine or ten days. One would think that a revolution so great would satisfy men; but no, the journey must be made in fifty or sixty hours, and by balloon. Well, it has been tried, and the gentleman who was to have directed the proceedings failed at the last moment, and has been not inappropriately called Professor Wise; and yet, Sir, this will be accomplished, and that I believe before many years. Time was when a month would be considered a short time to receive one's letters from Europe, now a message can be flashed

across the Atlantic in a moment; and we are aware that, very recently, discoveries have been made so that messages can be sent simultaneously from each side of the Atlantic through the same cable. And wonderful as these results have been, greater results will follow, so that ere long a large amount of the foreign correspondence carried on now by mercantile houses will be sent by ocean telegraph, so low will be the rates as to bring it within their reach. Now, what does all this imply? Simply an incompleteness in human judgment, and that notwithstanding the wondrous advancement which has been made, that the restlessness of man urges him forward in the achievement of results more wonderful. It implies that nature has vast storehouses into which the boldest adventurer has never entered. It implies that men will yet aim at great things, and be abundantly rewarded for their labor. The thought which I wish to impress, in connection with these remarks, is this: That amid all the changes which have astounded and benefited the world, the gospel remains the same, equally suited to-day, as it ever was, to meet all the necessities of a fallen world. No man has been bold enough to add to its pages; no man wise enough to discover anything superfluous; it is perfect. In 1869, the Legislature of this country passed a bankrupt law—what has that to do with this Missionary Meeting! I will tell you. The bankrupt laws of other countries were carefully examined, the bill itself was compiled by one of the ablest lawyers in the Dominion, it received the suggestions of business men of great experience, it passed through a Committee of the whole House—I need not say that its object was to protect the creditor and afford relief or deliverance to the debtor. Is it perfect? Not by any means. It has many imperfections. Here is a law whereby poor, guilty, defiled, bankrupt sinners may be cleansed and pardoned; a law whereby the Great Lawgiver, in bestowing that pardon, maintains his justice, and it is as perfect to-day as it ever was, and will continue so to the end of time. Amid all the changes and upheavings constantly taking place around us, it remains the same; nor is its power diminished by reason of the