

in a contest so wide spread and so determined. It is no longer to a sleeping world we call, but to a world awake for good or for evil. The aggressions made upon the territories of the common enemy have roused his vigilance; the torches of truth have been carried into the recesses of pagan, popish and Mahometan darkness, and the world is in a state of hope and fear. It is in this condition of things that the Church is becoming more eminently militant, and is taking up her more advanced posts, in which more is to be done, (and perhaps more is to be suffered.) But the noblest ambition is roused, the ambition of blessing men—of turning the world's darkness into light, and its tumults into peace. The prospect is sublime, because the effects connect themselves so little with visible agency, and so much with God. A few Societies, composed, for the most part, of persons little and unknown; contributions flowing in from the ten thousand channels, but with a stream small and noiseless, having their hidden sources, for the most part, among the pious poor—men sent forth simply to preach Christ, to establish Schools, to translate the Scriptures, to converse with meekness, and to persuade by example—scattered over vast continents and distant islands, few, among the many myriads of aliens from God and truth. Here is no array of power, no consultations of worldly policy, no march of crusading armies; yet the slumber of ages is disturbed—the chain of the captive breaks, the clouds of error dissipate, the light of universal day dawns, and the demons of idolatry and superstition retire before it, or brandish a feeble, though malignant, defiance. Invisible as the secret and far working power is, such a power is there, and it is the power of God. Invisible is that influence, which, spreading over the expanse of the waters of the ocean, rolls them in their bed, and heaves them, in submissive tides, upon their shores—yet who recognizes not an unseen agency, and who bows not before its majesty? So the Spirit of God has gone forth over the hearts of men, and the first gentle heavings of feeling and opinion are but prelusive of that mighty flowing of nations to the Church of God predicted by the Prophet, at the sight of which 'she shall fear and be enlarged,' and with prostrate awe acknowledge that this is the great work of God. If God then be for us, who shall be against us? In His name we have gone forth, and have not returned empty; in His name let us go forth again, to the prayers and the labours of another year, and doubt not, but steadfastly believe, that He who has never deceived our trust, will fulfil that word unto all his servants, in which he has caused them to hope. To him be glory for ever. Amen!"