

You, were, of course, not aware that Mr. Gordon is still in Scotland, whither he went early in August last. It was his intention when he left, to return in December or January, but the illness brought on by his incessant and exhausting labors during that wonderful year of God's right hand amongst us, proved more obstinate than had been expected, and the M. Ds of Edinburgh refused to sanction his immediate resumption of his work.

His Session and people, with their usual kindness and consideration, feeling that his life had been all but poured forth 'on the sacrifice and service of their faith,' sent to him the cordial expression of their willingness that he should remain for some time longer in the fatherland. I would however, in his absence, have sent you the desired communication earlier, had not prolonged illness in the family prevented me.

And what of the prosperity of God's work amongst us? It is when casting about for an honest answer to such an inquiry, that one feels how blind, and short-sighted we are. He alone, who can gauge the human soul in its depths of depravity, being Himself the 'Restorer' of that soul, can take with perfect accuracy the successive degrees of that restoration.

We, in our ignorance are prone to extremes.

At one time we are found, elate with hope—joyfully numbering the tender blades and stalks springing up in the field of our culture, as so much ripened grain—losing sight of the untimely frost, the blighting wind, the drought and the canker that may be between the spring time and the harvest; or, on the other hand, in our depression and disappointment, questioning whether the gathered sheaves will have many grains for the garner when tested with all the siftings through which we know they must pass. Among all the hosts of degenerate Israel, a prophet's eye cannot discern one Abdiel, "faithful among the faithless," where yet the Lord had reserved seven thousand!

In answering your inquiries then, I will only give a few matters of fact which are usually regarded as indicative of the life and growth of godliness among a people. These remain, when time has proved the error of our too sanguine or gloomy conclusions from them.

The prayer meeting has been truly called "the *pulse* of the Church."—With profound thankfulness we have to mark the prayer meetings in Indian Lands as indicating a degree of spiritual life and health which, two years ago, we dared not have hoped for.

Many a time I look back to the prayer meetings, which, by dint of an untold amount of exhortation, Mr. Gordon managed to keep in existence (with many interruptions) for the last ten years. Pleasant meetings they were, repaying one well, for a two miles' ride to attend them, but as to numbers—it was quite a prosperous day when, besides two of the Elders, we could count eight, ten or twelve elderly people!

As for the young people, we would have been as much astonished to see them crowding in, as were the good folks at the famous prayer-meeting in Mary's house when Peter knocked at their closed gate. Surely if their prayers had been those of faith worthy of the promise and the promiser, their gate would have been wide open, and Rhoda waiting there to welcome Peter and show him in! As it was, the Lord would not open that gate, as He had done the great iron one that led into the city, but by Rhoda's message He rebuked the unbelief of the petitioners, and sent them to open it themselves. Perhaps it was so with us, until those blessed New year's weeks of prayer with their crowded meetings caused God's people among us to look out with mingled hope and doubting for the coming of the answer. The answer came in blessed fulness, and for months it was not by scores but by hundreds that we counted the attendance at daily meetings for prayer. For twelve months these were held daily without a break. At that time, Mr. Gordon whose health had for months been giving away, left for Scotland, and