

manly, and good, that we could not afford to lose. There is a greatening effect in contemplating her length of days, her illustrious achievements, her wide spread dominions and renown. Let other nations love their history ; but *this is ours*, and we want no other.

Foremost among the privileges of being a Briton is that of being a subject of Queen Victoria. Probably England will never know—the world will never know—how much we are the better for the life and reign of this one Royal Lady. Scrupulously constitutional in her own government, animated by justice and good will to all foreign nations, and so eminent an example of personal and domestic virtue,—she deserves that warm loyalty which it is more blessed to give than to receive. With all our hearts we thank God for Her !

8. But a higher blessing yet is ours. This is a land of the Gospel, of the open Bible, of the hallowed Sabbath, of free churches. Purely to God's sovereign favour we owe it, that while many a country is in the darkness and filthiness of idolatry, on us the true light hath shined ; that while from many called Christians the Word of God is kept in an unknown tongue, we can read in our own the wonderful works of God ; that while many dare not meet in their houses for free prayer and preaching, we can worship God how and where we will : that while to many the Sabbath is like any other day of the seven, to us it comes with rest and quiet, with hallowed associations, and with open sanctuaries ; and that thus, al the grace of God, the unsearchable riches of Christ, and the love of the Spirit, are made known to all our people. "Happy the people that is in such a case !"

Such are the mercies, "new every morning," and continued from year to year, which we are accustomed to receive from our Father in Heaven. Let not their very constancy make them so familiar that we forget their magnitude, or fail to trace them up to their beneficent source.

This year, the seasons have again run their appointed course, and another harvest has been gathered in. We have been spared the general visitation of some dreaded pestilence. The scourge of fire, which a year ago laid waste a rising city at the west, and the other day consumed the heart of another at the east, has not fallen upon our dwelling place. The public peace has been unbroken, and the cloud of possible war between Britain and America has been dispersed.

For all these gifts of God to us as a people, let our united thanksgivings ascend to heaven to day. The duty of thankfulness is one which too often fails of hearty performance. Our prayers are too selfish, asking favours for the future, and overlooking the mercies of the past. This has an evil effect upon ourselves, and it is a wrong to our Divine Benefactor. He expects, and He delights, to hear our praises, and is grieved and disappointed when we are silent. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." "In everything give thanks." "O bless our God, ye people, and cause the voice of His praise to be heard."

Again : let us remember that the distinguished favours which we enjoy must be rightly improved, if we would retain them. All history shows that the