

Hence the peculiar feeling of sadness with which we regard the present juncture of affairs. May that Lord who holdeth the stars in his right hand, and walketh in the midst of the golden candlesticks, guide his servants, embuing them with wisdom and discretion. A result often unexpected by man has not unfrequently sprung from untoward events; when the prow of the church is among the breakers, it is inspiring to know that the helm is in the hands of Him who turneth it whithersoever he listeth.

We cannot conclude these introductory remarks, without reiterating our sentiments on the question at issue in Victoria. The "negro corner" appears to us so unchristian an institution, that it should neither have been conceded for a moment by any missionary, nor permitted by the Society. To our minds, it is not in accordance with either the doctrine or discipline of Congregational churches. But we must forbear, at present, any further comments on the many questions suggested by the correspondence.

REV. THOMAS JAMES, SEC. COL. MISS. SOCIETY, TO REV. WILLIAM F. CLARKE.

REV. W. F. CLARKE.

*Blomfield Street, Dec. 30, 1859.*

My Dear Sir,—Never since I sat at this desk have I had to correspond with brethren with such painful feelings as I am now the subject of, in replying to the communications of yourself and our esteemed brother, Mr. Macfie. The regard we cherish for you both increases the embarrassment under which I write. That you should have differed at all is an occasion of deep regret, but that you should have separated (for by the letters of both it appears to be a *separation*) on such a question, augments the pain which your letters have produced. We fondly cherished the hope that you would be a mutual comfort to each other, and would sustain and encourage one another amidst the difficulties with which you have to struggle. Having all these hopes and expectations, you may judge how great is the disappointment your letters have occasioned. I lost no time in convening a special meeting of our Committee, to whom your letters were read in *extenso*, and by whom the whole matter was carefully and most anxiously considered. The enclosed resolutions are the result. You will perceive we have expressed no opinion on the matter in dispute. We could not do this, because, first, whilst cordially approving of every reasonable and legitimate measure for raising the colored races in the scale of society, and being thorough going anti-slavery men, we could not perceive that this was the work which, *as a Society*, we had to do; and because, secondly, we should in that case have had to condemn one or both of you for the course you have taken, which, cherishing sincere esteem for both, we were unwilling to do. We regret the commencing two Congregational causes in your city, but better so than pronouncing a condemnatory sentence on either, when we believe both parties to have acted conscientiously. We regret, and one of the resolutions expresses disapproval, that you should have published your "Circular." I think you ought not to have done so. And I am sure you will forgive me when I say you have in some parts used much stronger language than the case calls for. You have mixed up the question of slavery in the abstract, with this particular point, which should not have been done. There are very many determined anti-slavery men, who might conscientiously differ on the question now at issue. Personally, I should be with *you*, but what would be my judgment if placed in different circumstances I cannot say. I was not aware till now that there were so many colored people, 300 or 400, in your city. Then is it not a fact that they have a colored preacher in Victoria? If so, they are not deprived of the means of grace, which they would be virtually if they could not be admitted to our places of worship, and had no other to which they could resort. Then, further, you seem to me to have given up the principle when you say to a white man (as you say in your Circular you do) here is a pew for you if you object to mingle with the blacks. Let me then respectfully but very