

advantages, and of which we have endeavored to furnish a brief sketch, should fill all our hearts with thankfulness and also with a buoyant hope for the future of the Church of Christ; and further, and most important of all, move us to give, not only our prayers, but in some cases ourselves, and in all cases a portion of our means to support and advance that work to which the Church Catholic is pledged, and for which, alone, she exists.

MODERN MISSION WORK.

By MRS. ANNIE ROTHWELL, KINGSTON, ONT.

IN this year, the jubilee year of our revered Queen, when the hearts of her subjects are affectionately counting up the honors and blessings of her long reign—when the discoveries and the achievements of science are dwelt on with just pride, and the valor and endurance of explorers and of armies are pointed to with loving exultation—it may prove both instructive and encouraging to inquire what, within the same period of time, has been accomplished in another field of labor—what steps have been taken in a yet nobler cause, what banners have been unfurled and what victories won for the kingdom that is not of this world. And if the acquisition of territory, the advancement of civilization, and progress in art and invention, and all appliances of national well-being, are regarded as lawful subjects of gratulation, shall we not be entitled to feel a deeper and more enduring satisfaction if we find that side by side with the march of worldly prosperity has been the movement of the Christian Church? May we not entertain the hope that the wise and beneficent rule of Victoria will be no more celebrated for soldier conquest than for missionary zeal, no more remembered for industries founded and homes beautified than for churches planted and souls won? May we not rejoice in the belief that the brightest lustre of her name will be that reflected from the Gospel, which, during her lifetime, has been sown and taken root, bloomed and ripened to harvest, as never before?

It is impossible within the limits of a short paper to give any but the briefest sketch of what the Church has done in the course of the last fifty years; but to those whose hearts sometimes fail them at the vast extent of the field for missionary work, and the thought of the small amount possible for each laborer to do, it will be cheering to learn how much faithful laborers have been enabled to accomplish. Humility is good, but so also are hope and trust, and it is well occasionally to turn our eyes from the heights that still lie before and above us, and look back with thankfulness on that part of the ascent which we have already climbed.

Looking back thus for the last half century and comparing the result of the work of those years with that of preceding time, the progress seems more than the most sanguine would have dared to hope for. To begin on the lowest ground. There is a common saying that "figures cannot lie;"

therefore it may be well to take a few statistics as evidence of the material improvement of missionary giving. "It is a fact,"—we quote here from the *Missionary Gleaner*—"that not more than one thousandth part of the aggregate British income is given for missionary work; yet, when we compare the giving of 1836-7 with that of 1885-6, the result is most encouraging. The donations of the united religious bodies amounted in the latter year to \$6,111,315, as against \$2,478,115 in the former. As some proof of prosperity it may be stated that the income of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for the last year was \$589,855; that of the Church Missionary Society was \$1,006,185, or \$15,125 more than ever before reported; that of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, \$200,000; that of the Ladies' Association for the Promotion of Education, \$24,185, and the list might be further extended if time allowed. In the course of the year referred to, the Church Missionary Society has expended \$30,000,000; the Society for the Extension of the Colonial Episcopate, over \$3,000,000; and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel many millions more; while so far from the expenditure having injured or hampered the mother Church, there has been voluntarily subscribed in England over \$250,000,000 for endowing churches and parishes, and over \$100,000,000 for education, while the number of clergy has increased from 14,000 to 22,000." Truly the promise seems to have been fulfilled, "with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again." But let not this success be taken as excuse for slackening effort, for all that is accomplished only opens up fresh fields for exertion and new needs.

As example of growth, let us take that of the Colonial Episcopate. In the year 1837, there existed but seven bishops of the Church of England outside of England's own boundaries—two in British North America, two in India, one in Jamaica, one in Barbadoes, and one in Australia; this last, the See of Sidney, having been established only in the previous year, 1836. At the present day the Colonial and Indian Episcopate consists of nineteen bishops in British North America, nine of whom find their field of labor in that North-West portion of our own Dominion, which less than fifty years ago was almost unknown wilderness, trodden by few but the hunter and the redman; seven in India, in conjunction with one of whom, the Bishop of Colombo, are five missionary bishops; five in China and the adjacent lands; seven in the West Indies and South America, including even the far south Falkland Islands; fourteen in the dark continent of Africa (where the first was established so late as 1847) and the neighboring islands; thirteen in Australia; and eight in New Zealand and the Pacific Ocean—seventy-eight in all.

Surely this is a marvellous increase, and one to justify us in the cheering belief that in proportion with the addition to the number of shepherds must have been that of the helpers and of the flocks over which they preside. Nor are we mistaken in the