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“THE FOUNDATIONS OF MANY GENERATIONS.”

A PLEA FOR HOME MISSIONS.

There are some nations of mankind whose life is little more than a waning recollection of the past. They have “decayed and waxed old, and are ready to vanish away.” In such a condition lies Turkey to-day,—the contempt, as it was once the terror, of Europe.

There are other nations, again, whose life, though nourished by the past, continues in full vigour to the present, and who look forward with eager longing to a still brighter future. They “take root downward, and bear fruit upward.” Recalling with exultation the achievements of their ancestors, they do not lament over these as glories passed away, or sit down content with what was done before them: but from the point to which their fathers attained they advance to ampler numbers, greater wealth, more perfect liberty, higher intelligence, wider influence, and a riper Christian civilization. Among those of whom this may be said, we may thankfully place our dear Mother—ENGLAND. “The Old Country,” we fondly call it; but Dr. Vaughan could tell the representatives of our Sister-Churches of the New World, in their recent National Council, that “*Old England* was never so *young* as at this day.” God grant that, in the “righteousness” which “exalteth a nation,” her path may be “as the shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day!”

There are yet other nations whose life lies all before them. They have no past: the future is their only domain. They enter upon a virgin soil—they mark out its boundaries—they build its earliest cities with their own hands. They constitute society—they frame laws—they begin to shape a national character. If Memory tell them few inspiring tales of illustrious deeds performed here and there within their borders, yet Hope paints before their eyes a radiant vision of what they, their children, and their children’s children may do to “*make its history.*” They start afresh upon a career in which, under God, all depends upon themselves. To *this* class, we need hardly say, the inhabitants of this continent and this colony belong.