

easily be doubled—nay, trebled, and should be so, and could be so, by a slight exercise of self-denial, without touching on the primary duties which we and our people owe our own families, our poor neighbours, and local charities. Population has increased, and religious destitution along with it; but the wealth of the country has in a much greater degree increased. And, with the exception, perhaps, of two classes, the whole community have shared in the flowing tide of prosperity; and what is most pleasant, the industrial classes especially have received the benefit. (Applause.) In this aspect of our position, verily it is a day of "small things with us," although not to be despised or ungratefully acknowledged.

## The Monthly Record.

AUG., 1869.

### NOTES OF THE MONTH.

The last few months have been characterized by almost unequalled excitement in British politics. Discussions on the question of Reform have been followed by discussions on the Irish Church, in which both political and religious heat has been combined. Mr. Gladstone's resolutions involving the disestablishment of the Irish Church have been carried in the Commons against the Government. Thence the liberal party claim that Disraeli should simply resign; but he or the Queen or both prefer a *dissolution*, involving a new election, though Parliament expires next winter. He will dissolve but not resign; they want him to *resign* but not dissolve—hence the present quarrel in which he appears much more *resigned* than his opponents. Disraeli's policy is to rouse the feeling of the country in favor of Church establishments. He widens the issue and endeavours to shew that the question affects all the state Churches. His opponents endeavour to shew that it affects the Irish Church alone. Both parties in their desire of power use arguments, which are to some extent exaggerated and insincere. Gladstone will have the support of all volunteers, who interpret his motion differently from himself. He has also the support of many Church of England people who believe that it will not hurt the Church of England. Disraeli will be supported by no volunteers but by all in favor of establishments, who believe them to be threatened by the measure. While the truth probably is, (1) that, if the Irish Establishment is destroyed the English will become stronger, and (2) if both establishments were destroyed they would soon endow themselves and be in a position, in which the country could not control them, but they would control the country. Meantime, we are for the disendowment of the Irish Church,

believing that it will thereby become stronger and stronger, by ceasing to become an object of hatred and contempt, and that the other established Churches will be strengthened by this, and that they are far more strongly rooted in the popular will and love than their blinded enemies are able to see. It is a remarkable fact that a petition in favor of the disestablishment of the Irish Church has been presented to the House of Commons, signed by 261 Episcopal clergyman, including some distinguished names.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has held one of the most interesting sessions in the history of the Church. All the schemes are in a most flourishing state. The income of the Colonial Committee exceeds that of last year by upwards of £400 *sig.* This year it is £5,015 *sig.* The report contains interesting statements, and as it affects us particularly and our home mission operations, ought always to be published here in full, accounts and all. It is an annual document, that ought regularly to be preserved in our *Record*. The expenditures in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island during the past year amounts to £628, and in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick together to £1,171, a most formidable sum—and considering the number of ministers in the Synod altogether extraordinary. In fact, we have only 10 ministers in the Maritime Provinces, who are not partially supported by the Colonial Committee or missionary associations and schemes. The income of the India Mission has been upwards of £11,000 *sig.* The address of Dr. McLeod is one of immense value in a missionary and social point of view. It is the summary view taken by a man able, experienced, having a knowledge of the world and singularly gifted in his acquaintances with human nature, of a great and peculiar country and an important field of missionary operations. His address deserves deep study and ought also to find a place in the pages of our *Record*. The Home Mission under the conrovership of the distinguished Dr. Crawford has had a useful and prosperous year. There is a falling off in the revenue of £23 only, £6,430 standing against £6,453 last year. The scheme for increasing small livings has received this year £8,000. So soon as another £8,000 shall have been added to the capital fund, the scheme will be complete and no living in the Church less than £200 per annum. The Free Church has this year raised, the minimum stipend to £150 *sig.* The income of the Jewish Mission is £334 greater this year than last, now amounting to £5,963. The most wonderful success has attended the Endowment Scheme founded by the lamented Dr. Robertson. Sixteen new parishes have been endowed during the last year, and 131 parishes in all since its commencement about 20 years ago. This represents a capital sum of about £500,000 *sig.*, as it requires