

ly at work. Free thinkers, Sceptics and Infidels are unweariedly and assiduously disseminating their principles broadcast over the land, and they have much reason to expect that their labours will gather an abundant harvest. And it is much to be regretted that, in some instances, those who, in their childhood and youth, possessed the benefits of religious instruction and training, had proven, when tested, to be so destitute of those religious principles and convictions as practically to renounce conformity to the principles and requirements of Religion, and easily become a prey to the influence and practices of the masses; thinking that *they* are too wise and enlightened to be hemmed in by the rules and scruples which guided the faith and conduct of their fathers. And some of these, having cast off the fear of God and all religious restraints, and having broken away from the religious instruction of Christian parents, now evidently go on to the doom of Apostates. Surely Christians should improve every opportunity within their reach to extend the gospel into all these new regions, and spare no efforts to reclaim them, and leave no poor wanderer to perish uncared for. But while "the harvest is truly great and the labourers few," the churches are not at all inactive or indifferent to the spiritual wants and destitution of this "great West." They have many men in the field, supported from their Home Mission funds, but their number is not at all adequate to the wants of the extensive regions to be occupied, and there are several localities for whose spiritual wants no provision whatever has yet been made by any christian denomination. The moral condition of some of these points is deplorable. The rough frontiersman, the Texan cattle drover and the gambler, all meet, all are armed with the dirk and the revolver, that seem to have been invented for murder only, and, when maddened with whiskey, human life is little regarded,—very often no attempt being made to arrest a murderer, unless it may have been by a self-constituted vigilance committee, whose work of retributive justice is often as mild as the murder to be avenged. But this rough population will soon give way as peaceful and permanent settlers come in. They are all

hastening to their account, and it is of much importance that christian influence should be brought to bear upon these points at once. But murder and bloodshed is not at all the general rule, nor is it so much so now as it has been; for, in most localities, life and property are as safe and secure as in Nova Scotia—good horses excepted; for in any place, and on any night, they are liable to disappear. The general rule is worldliness of mind and aim, and a seeming indifference to anything beyond the interests of the present life. The Sabbath is generally regarded and observed as a day of recreation, and the command to keep it holy seems not to be regarded. The Bible is seldom read, even by professing Christians, and family worship is scarcely known. The newspapers form the chief reading matter for the Sabbath; politics, trade, agriculture and all such sorts, are the chief subjects for conversation and general interest, and the person that will not relish this species of entertainment must stand aloof at the expense of being thought "peculiar" and unnecessarily "scrupulous."

*The future prospects of this "great West."* Notwithstanding every obstacle, I do not hesitate to believe that the prospects are encouraging, and the future bright and promising. I do not believe that it was the design of the All-Wise that this fertile and beautiful country would remain a wilderness, seeing that far less promising places have been cultivated and fitted for the abode of man; nor do I think it probable that ungodliness and infidelity shall hold general sway. God forbid that such should be the case, or that Atheism, in any of its forms, should find a fostering asylum in this fertile and beautiful land, or that Christians should shun this place because at present society is bad. It would be equally bad in highly favoured Nova Scotia if Christianity were withdrawn; and what the christian religion has done for Nova Scotia, we know it is able and calculated to accomplish here; and we trust and are confident it will do it here, and that in some instances the good seed is being already sown which will bear fruit many days hence, and will continue to bear fruit until "time be no more." This "great American desert" promises literally to "rejoice and blossom as the