

The Free Church came later into the field, and have now a convenient house of worship.

There are also four houses of worship on the other side of the river, in Melbourne; viz. the Congregational, Methodist, Kirk, and Adventist, whose members in part belong on this side. Some also from Melbourne attend religious worship in Richmond. There are also a few scattered members of three other denominations in the vicinity, making ten in all. It might therefore be inferred that the people are very quarrelsome or very devotional. But perhaps they are not distinguished in either way. The circumstances of former localities have for the most part occasioned the variety. And there is much among them all to commend.

But the number of religious denominations cannot be otherwise than detrimental to religious prosperity. From the feebleness of each, they cannot bring that influence against the cause of Infidelity and irreligion which might otherwise be the case. Their means also being scarcely adequate to support the Gospel among themselves, they do far less abroad. And there is a far less amount of preaching and religious influence on the whole in the place than there might be if the denominations and houses of worship were diminished by one half. The multiplication of religious denominations therefore tends to lessen the

mean
great
jects
divis
disso