

New sanctuaries are rising on every side; our day schools are flourishing; our Sunday schools report a considerable increase; our Home Missions, established among the degraded masses of our large cities, and among the scattered populations of our rural districts, have in numerous instances been remarkably successful; and the zeal and liberality of our people in the work of Foreign Missions is unabated. For all these marks of Divine favour, we gratefully praise the glorious Head of the Church.

Yet our song of praise is mingled with the sigh of sorrow and the murmur of confession, and the longing of prayer. While in some Districts, and especially among the great populations of London and Manchester, a considerable increase is reported—in other Districts, from various causes, our numbers have declined: so that our net increase is very small. On this account there are among us great “searchings of heart.” We waver not in our confidence in the glorious Gospel which our fathers preached, or in our allegiance to the form of discipline which they so successfully observed. All we ask is, that a double portion of their spirit may be upon us. “Brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified”—“Ye also helping together by prayer for us.”

And now, Brethren, we “commend you to God, and to the word of His grace.” We feel that our interchange of Annual Addresses is not a mere matter of form. It tends to strengthen the bonds of our happy union, and to excite mutual prayer. It moreover recalls to our minds a thousand interesting recollections,—and, leading to a review of the departed year, it reminds us that we are all one year nearer the termination of our conflicts and the consummation of our hopes; and thus rouses us to prepare for our final account. May we all “feed the