

against the darkness of error,—of holiness to allure from the dark and devious courses of sin—and of happiness to cheer and to bless, when there is little else, and in some cases, may be, naught else to gild the present with joy, and to make the future bright and bland, with the hope which is full of immortality, and which to many an error-tossed soul, and to many a sin-tormented soul, is as an anchor, sure and steadfast, entering as it does, into that which is within the veil.

Some of these congregations, the most of them indeed, are on our coast lines, within sight and hearing of that far resounding voice, Sir, and they are morally and spiritually, what yonder Pharos, what yonder lighthouse is; what in fair weather or foul, whether in hurricane or zephyr, or shipping coming into our port or leaving it, guides safely out to the voyage of life at the beginning, and into the desired haven at the close. Allow one of these congregations to languish, or to die, and it would do a much greater evil, than if the light-houses all round us to become useless through parsimony or neglect.

And then they are the nurseries of our nation and city considerations to a very considerable extent, I was going to say to a great extent. Sir, it used to be so in point of fact, in days long gone by, with some of our congregations here. What would become of Poplar Grove for example, if it had not been for Pictou and the Stewarts and Musquodoboit of four and twenty years ago? And, Sir, I am sorry yet to have to say in addition, that no degree of the recent and present poverty of some of the Presbyterian congregations of Boston, as well as of some of the Congregational churches outside the city, is to be traced to hundreds and hundreds of our young folks who left their Church and their home, in the absence of the better chances, as they are, which the States afford, of getting on in the world. And then, Sir, it is not only at the amount, but at the number of trees raised in nurseries! I refrain to say it here, I rejoice to say it there, to the praise of the sovereign

grace of God, blessing the labours of those Congregations, ministers, elders and people alike, I am not afraid or ashamed to say it here, that they are trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, and that carefully nurtured, some of them have struck their roots so deeply down that it would be no easy matter to transplant them again—bringing forth fruit, well that is something—much fruit, why that is more—much good fruit, that is most of all and best of all, and here the matter culminates. And because of this we now worship Thee, O Lord God of the Church, because of Thine own blessed words, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye should bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." Such is my argument for the objects and the claims of the Supplementing Scheme of this Church.

### A WORKING CHURCH.

Twenty years ago a mission church was established at Ermelo, a small village in the Netherlands. Under the labours of a faithful pastor it has wrought much in that short space of time, and affords an eminent example of what zeal and energy under God can accomplish. The church has now in operation schools for children, nursing houses for the sick, alms houses for the aged, for orphans, foundlings and destitute children. Home Mission work is carried on in nine or ten different places in Holland, Belgium and elsewhere. Foreign Mission work is also prosecuted in Sumatra, South Africa, China, Egypt, and among the Jews. Those who are labouring in these mission fields were not only trained at Ermelo, but are sustained entirely by funds raised by the little church, and the funds come in answer to prayer. What an amount of work has been accomplished by this noble band at Ermelo. It certainly puts to the blush the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces. If all our congregations manifested a tithe of their zeal and exhibited as strong faith in God, how much more might be done for the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom. Instead of having only six missionaries in the