

thank God and take courage. Having regard to what has been done, and yet more to the deep sense which has sprung up simultaneously in the public mind, of the vital importance of education to the best interests of society, we are warranted to entertain a confident hope that an adequate supply of efficient schools will soon be provided for the whole country. Nor is this all. Clearer and sounder views have been gradually maturing themselves also, as to what should constitute education. The religious element of school training has been successfully re-asserting for itself its proper function. In danger of being cast out as an empty form, it has vindicated its title anew to be regarded as spirit, and life and power. The numerous discussions of which it has been made the subject, have but placed in a more prominent point of view the indefeasible claims of religion to paramount control, as well as in the whole business of the school as in every other department of life. And, happily, there are unequivocal symptoms, too, that this result of the discussions which have taken place, has not failed to witness itself in the public mind, and that there has generally sprung up, in consequence, a more eager desire for the universal diffusion of such an educational course as shall sow the land with energy and probity, and patriotism and piety. Are we not permitted, in these circumstances, to indulge a sanguine hope that not only will an adequate supply of efficient schools be provided, but every legitimate means be taken also to make good the benefit of them to the whole rising generation of the country? We cannot but believe, indeed, that the education field is already white unto harvest, and that, in this department of her labors, the Church has now encouragements to perseverance such as were never enjoyed by her at any previous period of her history. May I not adduce her Home Mission Scheme as another instance in which her labors have been so signally blessed as to justify the largest and most cheering hopes? Founded, originally, to collect anew the isolated remnants of dispersed chapel congregations, this scheme has grown and prevailed, till its aim has been now advanced to testify the gospel of the grace of God to every neglected family in the land. Nor, from the measure of support which it has received, can such an expansion of its aim be regarded as unwarrantable. It would seem but to have stretched its line in conformity with the indications of a gracious Providence. If the members and friends of the Church were stirred up to look not on their own things only, but also on the things of their destitute brethren, it was surely the duty of the mission: specially directed to those brethren, to enlarge the place of its tent, and stretch forth the curtains of its habitations—to lengthen its cords and strengthen its stakes. To see men of all ranks and degrees in the country conspiring to fulfil the hope—to see those of our fellow citizens who are members of the

Episcopalian Church not less anxious than ourselves to fulfil it—to see thus all outward and formal distinctions overlooked and forgotten in upholding them that fall, and raising up those that are bowed down—is surely a light that must strengthen our hands and encourage our hearts, excite in us feelings of the liveliest gratitude; and constrain us to double our exertions in the humble yet animating hope of a rich recompense of reward. Of one heart and of one soul ourselves in the work—our nobles, in the expressive language of Scripture, *of ourselves*, and fervently sympathizing in it—the rich and the poor amongst us offering for it willingly, as God has prospered them—where shall we find, if we find not here, an encouraging earnest of national blessing—an humble assurance of hope that the beauty of the Lord our God will be upon us, and that He will establish upon us the work of our hands? Our Colonial and Foreign Missions have a much wider range, and it is not to be expected they should lead, directly at least, to the same complete results. The countrymen who have left our shores, or the descendants of those countrymen, are now scattered over colonies on which the sun never sets; and, obviously, without their own efforts, adequate supplies of religious ordinances are not to be provided for them. The parent Church can but animate and aid those efforts. Encouragement and aid to a considerable extent have already been given, and assuredly the expectations of the Church have not been disappointed in the result. Many are the instances in which she assisted to set up the tabernacle of testimony in the wilderness, where, under its grateful shade and the continuance of her fostering care, the wilderness has since been made glad and rejoiced, and blossomed abundantly. Probably by none of her missions more than her Colonial Mission has it been the privilege of the Church to reap a rich harvest of souls unto everlasting life. Fond recollections of the home of youth—innumerable kindred associations of the tenderest character—a sense of isolation—the stillness of the forest itself—have all been combined here to prepare hearts for the heavenly seed, and to perfect in them the fruits of righteousness and peace; and if the Colonial Mission has been successful in its highest and primary aim, it has been not less successful in binding the Colonies to the Mother country, and fostering the principles of devoted loyalty. Followed by the care of the Church to the land of their adoption, and summoned by her Sabbath bell to the simple services in which they were nurtured, our expatriated fellow citizens are made to feel that it is of truth that all that they have left behind them—people and Queen and country—is still their own. We are privileged to hope, too, when we take into account those wonderful discoveries of these last days, by which time and space have been annihilated, that, with the Divine blessing, triumphs are before our Colonial Mission, of which all that it has yet achieved can but be regarded as an earnest. May it be given to it, with the facilities sup-

plied by the discoveries referred to, and the fulfilment of their respective objects by our Education and Home Mission Schemes, to awaken a spirit throughout the length and breadth of the colonies that shall never cease to wax stronger and stronger, until it shall have constrained the inhabitants of each colonial state to make equally adequate provision within their own bounds, for sound educational training, and the preaching of the everlasting Gospel! So much, indeed, is perfectly clear, that we have only to furnish the requisite type at home—but to have the loins of the Church, (of which we have been made the overseers), girded about with truth, and her lights burning—to arm not our Colonial Mission only, but our mission: also to India and the scattered sheep of the flock of Israel, with more than ten times the force that they have ever yet possessed. It is the coming in of the fulness of the Gentiles that is to do away, under God, the blindness of His ancient people, when returning to the house of Jacob seemed, meanwhile, the most hopeless object of missionary exertion. He will say to it, "Fear thou not; let not thine hands be slack, the Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love. He will joy over thee with singing." Who can doubt, then, that a most important step would be taken to the coming in of this fulness, were the fulness of our own land come in; or that we should thus be furnished with an element of missionary power which, whether among our fellow-subjects in India, or among the dispersed tribes of Israel, should cause a shaking in the valley of dry bones, bone to come together to his bone, the sinews and the flesh to come up upon them, the skin to cover them above, the breath to come into them, the dead to be made alive unto God? May the Lord Himself grant, of His infinite grace, that the deliberations in which you have been here engaged, in relation to the educational and missionary enterprises of our Church, may result in thus strengthening her hands for diffusing, by her missions, the saving knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. Right Reverend and Right Honorable: You are now to be released from your attendance on the Supreme Court of the Church, and to return to your several spheres of ordinary duty. Let the place which I hold by your favor be my apology for presuming to exhort you to occupy them as becomes those who shall render an account to the Chief Shepherd of souls. Make it your constant and prayerful study to be centres of Christian light and life in your respective parishes and circles of influence, that men may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in Heaven. Be examples to the flock in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Keep the solemn responsibilities of the trust committed to you ever before you; give yourselves wholly to the discharge of them; let your profiting appear to all. In so doing you shall both save yourselves,