

stirring; and the gathering as a whole, from first to last, is a sign of the times, and an evidence that prayer offered in years past for revival is being answered. We see clear evidences of the power and presence of the spirit of the Lord in these times of great spiritual refreshing and activity. Our sons are prophesying, and working as well, and the christian ministers of all evangelical churches are hailing their entrance into the field of christian enterprise with thankful hearts.

We cannot enter into particulars respecting the number of sessions, nor the different subjects discussed; but we know that all the discussions were harmonious, suggestive, and spiritually reviving and healthful, that there has been great progress during the year past, and that the delegates separated with earnest resolves that the work to which they have devoted themselves will be prosecuted, through divine grace, during the year with undiminished ardour and determination. It will be good for our young men generally themselves, not one-tenth of whom as yet belong to these organizations, good for the church, and good for the Maritime Provinces in all their interests, when the principles so ably advocated on this occasion will be generally avowed, and the youth of the land shall consecrate its manhood and talent to the support of the great cause of truth and righteousness. May the leaders in this enterprise be guided and led by the spirit of wisdom and love in all their movements during the current year!

INFIDELITY AND POPERY.

There is a storm gathering in our day which may burst ere long in scenes of revolutionary fury like those which marked the close of last century. We do not undertake to prophesy, or to interpret prophecy; but no attentive student of contemporary history can hide from himself the numerous symptoms of portentous changes which are to be noted all over civilized Europe and America. Nor do we look with hopeless terror at coming troubles, for we know that God "rides on the whirlwind and directs the

storm", and that under His governance wars and revolutions, the overthrow of dynasties and of churches, will hasten the coming of the Kingdom of Christ, the reign of perfect righteousness.

Never since the days of the Council of Trent was Popery more determined than it is now to make no compromise with Protestantism, or the "spirit of the age."

It is reactionary, tyrannical, presumptuous in the highest degree. The Pope's recent "bulls" and "allocutions" have all been steeped in the spirit of mediæval darkness, bigotry and insolence. Liberty of the press, liberty of speech, even liberty of thought, as well as liberty of conscience, are denounced as not merely dangerous but damnable. Common Schools are condemned as the invention of Satan; and civil government is claimed as entirely subordinate to the authority of the Pope of Rome, while the persecution and the extirpation of "heretics" is raised to the dignity of an article of faith.

What gives significance to these wild assumptions is the fact, that the Pope has his pledged servants well organized, in vast numbers, all over the civilized world.—Archbishops, Bishops, priests of every grade, obey the Pope without a moment's hesitation. This organization controls scores of millions of men and fabulous amounts of money, in Europe and America. The Pope's army has some representatives in every Province of the British Empire, and almost in every town and village. As is the case in Britain, so in other countries, only to a still greater extent. Within the last few months the number of Bishops in America has been nearly doubled, and the priesthood has received a proportionate increase. Fresh activity is observed among the clergy all over the world. A fierce assault has been made on the liberalizing educational measures of the French, Austrian and British Governments. Claims are put forth which would not have been conceded by Charles Fifth or Philip Second. This movement, so keen, so far-reaching and universal, has received an apparent impetus since the summoning of the "Universal Council" for December of