

CURRENT EVENTS.

IT is a significant fact that notwithstanding the financial depression which has been so keenly felt by all classes of the people of this country during the last few months, the enterprises of the Christian Church were never better sustained. So far as we can learn from the accounts of the missionary anniversaries, which have reached us from all parts of the Dominion, there are signs of substantial progress in this important department of our church work. The Methodist people of the country, at least, are determined not only that this work shall not decline, but that it shall progress; and probably the same spirit is abroad among our sister denominations. The amount which will be poured into the missionary treasury of our own church this year, we confidently predict, will be considerably larger than that contributed for the same purpose in any former year. This is as it should be. Earnest cries for help from those who are not in a position to help themselves, are wafted to us on almost every breeze; the Macedonian cry is coming from all quarters;—the case is urgent, and the King's work requires haste. But it must not be forgotten, that, in thousands of instances, every dollar contributed this year involves a much greater sacrifice than would have been involved in the gift of two, or even four dollars, in some past years. This fact is necessary to be taken into the account, in order to rightly estimate the liberality of our people, and their self-sacrificing devotion to the evangelistic work of the church.

The educational anniversaries are just being held, and it were premature to speak confidently of their results; but, it will be a strange thing under the sun, if there is not progress here as elsewhere. Our colleges and schools are doing a work, the value and importance of which to the church, it will require another generation to properly estimate. It is, in fact, impossible to over-estimate its importance. Their schoolmaster is abroad, institutions of learning are being multiplied, and the people will be educated; but whether this fact shall ultimately prove to be a matter of congratulation or regret, will depend upon the spirit which is infused into the intellectual culture which they are receiving. Education to be made a blessing requires to be baptized at the font of Christianity, and consecrated to the glory of God. The atheistic spirit which pervades much of the higher culture of our own time, only repeats the admonitory lesson which had been taught long ago, by the history of the most highly cultured nations of antiquity,—that intellectual development does not necessarily make men either better or happier; that the learned are just as likely to fall into degrading errors, and become the subjects of moral, social and political debasement as the unlearned, except their education includes the development and proper training of the moral and spiritual nature. "Knowledge is power"; but, as has been often observed, whether power for good or evil depends entirely upon the moral character of those who possess it. The age of Pericles was the culminating point of Grecian culture,—a form of culture which so far at least as æsthetic perfection is concerned, has not been approached in modern times—but it was the point, too, at which the glory was departing from the Athenian people—when in fact the whilom conquerors of the world were sinking under the weight of