

The careless and godless are scattered thick in village and town, and are becoming formidable in our cities. By a clear apprehension of the danger ahead, and by a timely and thorough application of means to avert it, we may save our country from those evils which overtask the energies of Christian men in Britain. Matters have not yet got beyond control. What a blessing should it be were we wise to discern the time and interpose at the critical moment to arrest the progress of irreligion and ungodliness.

It is a fashion at the present time to talk of the gospel being effete, and of the Church of Christ not being equal to the demands and wants of the age. It is very empty talk. For, after all, there is no power on the earth, at this moment, which can work with such effect on the minds and hearts of men, and which can, and does produce, such marvellous and ennobling results, as the preaching of Christ. Still, as of old, He is the wisdom of God, and the power of God unto salvation. And the Church whose ministers and members are most thoroughly pervaded with the Evangelistic Spirit, is the Church which shall take its place first of all in every element of true power and progress. Such a spirit, pervading any church, can laugh to scorn the depreciation of unbelieving men; and in the conquests which it must make, it can more than answer all their cavils. We long to see the Evangelistic Spirit more fervent and wide-spread. The Church which has it most largely, and by which it is acted out most energetically and systematically, will be the Church of the Future.

CHRIST'S HIGHWAY INTO AFRICA.

The Continent of Africa has been for centuries, especially its central regions, shut against civilization and christianity. Men have been till now totally ignorant even of the geography of Central Africa,

and ignorant of any practical highway into the vast, mysterious region whence, it might almost be said, no traveller ever returned. All this is now changed.

Step by step, and as slowly and painfully as knowledge has ever been gained, Livingstone and other travellers have, to some extent, explored the heart of the mysterious continent, and have helped to fill with names the big blanks in the old maps of Africa, making its geography harder to our children, as a little girl once remarked, than it was to us in our school-days. It has so happened in God's wise Providence, and the coincidence ought to be noted, that no sooner is the heart of Africa reached by adventurous travellers and partially explored and described, than God has given Christian people a highway into that region inaccessible till now.

The Christian highway into Africa is the old highway, up the Nile, over which the Gospel entered the Continent 1,800 years ago. That highway has been long closed by two formidable barriers. The first barrier met the modern Christian Missionary at Alexandria in the shape of Mahometan bigotry: and the second met him at the second cataract in the greed and cruelty of the slave trade. Both these barriers are being gradually removed, if one may judge from present appearances. Mahometan bigotry has been on the wane in Egypt ever since Mahomet Ali came to power in that land. The present ruler has been tolerant and kind to Christian Missionaries in so far as they confine their labours to the Copts (the representatives of the ancient Christian Church of Egypt,) a community numbering about half a million souls. Among this interesting people American Missionaries have had considerable success within the last few years. In 1858 it could hardly be said that a beginning had been made in the way of enlightening this venerable, but dying Church. There was at that date one missionary, an excellent man, whose house was the resort of Christian travel-