

'black sheep,' have two very strong reasons for saying. First, we cannot better ourselves by moving—as a general rule, I mean. I could go to the Church of England, but I am a Liberationist; the Romanists, but I am a Protestant; the Presbyterians, but the same bar is there as here. A second reason is, our duty to our Church. Dr. Osborn said in his speech, "If we are running against the spirit of the age, all I can say is, so much the worse for the spirit of the age. I say, 'If Wesleyan Methodism is running, &c., &c., so much the worse for Methodism.' The greatest curse of any church is to be out of harmony with the need of the times, and though he entreats, 'Go hence, leaving us as you found us,' I say 'No,' as we have been benefitted by Methodism, it is our duty, our bounden duty, to try to benefit *Methodism*, and we can best do that by staying in her pale, and trying to remove that blemish in an otherwise 'glorious church,' namely, her lack of harmony with modern thought and Biblical criticism. It is useless and foolish to say 'Leave us as you find us.' Reformers have always had to meet that cry; see the same principle illustrated in Luke iv. 33-35. It is our duty to stay till after a sufficient working of the leaven some Wesleyan Luther initiates the Wesleyan Reformation."

And this is the position of the churches to-day who prefer to abide by the creeds of the past:

"The living faith of the settler's old,  
A dead profession the children hold."

Powerful for discipline no doubt the creeds are, for "any narrow-minded person who clings to old monkish ideas, has only to bring the thing forward *officially*, and the whole machinery of the Connexion being on his side, the authorities are powerless to act otherwise," but the pulpits put forth weakly, if at all, many of the points for which their fathers contended, and the charge thus has weight made by shrewd men of the world, that many denominations wear their colours falsely, or their principles very lightly. After all, the church is to be found not in formularies, but with "the band of men whose hearts God hath touched."

THANKS to the energy, courage and tact displayed by the man who discovered Livingstone, a brighter future awaits that land of the slave-hunter "the open sore of the world." The opening-up of that vast region is proceeding. Missionary societies have established stations, half industrial, half religious, on the shores of its lakes and rivers; the traffic in human life is gradually giving place to legitimate trade. A philanthropic association promoted by the King of the Belgians is causing civilization to dawn upon the banks of the Congo. The success of this association in

founding trading stations has been entirely due to the perseverance and firmness of the intrepid Stanley; and Gordon's charmed life may yet be brought to bear upon the gigantic undertaking. We glean from the *Christian World* that Mr. Stanley has just arrived in England after a two years' sojourn in Africa. The picture he draws might almost tempt even English farmers to betake themselves to the land of sunny fountains, which has hitherto been associated with missionary rather than agricultural enterprise. In Mr. Stanley's estimation, the Congo region is one of the most fertile spots on the face of the globe, that it would well repay small capitalists to settle in the rich valleys, and devote themselves to cereal cultivation alone. He has a good word for the climate of Africa. Apart from the fear of fever when passing up the mouths of the rivers, there is no reason why white men should not enjoy as good health in Africa as in England. The deaths among his own men he attributes to reckless exposure in the sun, and incautious use of alcoholic drinks. Balancing the advantages and disadvantages, Stanley places it beyond doubt that Africa to-day presents a splendid field for the trader. Unfortunately the wily Arab is only too ready to avail himself of it. With the Arab the industrial development of the country is quite a secondary affair, his one pet pursuit being slave-dealing. Ivory, gum and oil are the natural products of Africa. The first named shows no signs of exhaustion, and the banks of the Congo, for 1,000 miles, at least, are crowded with oil-palms, which would yield a rich harvest. In addition, bananas, oranges, and other fruits can be raised in any quantity, which seems to indicate that a great future is before this oppressed country. Even now the imports to the Congo from England each year exceed half a million sterling. By no means the least interesting part of Mr. Stanley's report is the good word he has to say for the missionaries, who are most successfully pushing their way into the interior of Africa. He would rejoice to see mission-stations planted all along the banks of the Congo, for the Ambassadors of the Cross and the Association evidently go hand-in-hand; the one assisting and supplementing the other. Owing to the determination of Mr. Stanley, trading-stations, with spacious buildings and flourishing gardens, have been established