

of the Gospel which they were founded to sustain, defend and propagate? We find that the income in 1877 of these societies was \$8,181,180; while for 1878 it was \$8,436,260, being an increase for this year, a year of great commercial depression and anxiety, of \$255,080 over last year. That balance sheet does not by any means justify the statement that Protestantism, though it may be "breast-deep in torrents of skepticism," (which we do not deny) "is drowning."

It is further remarkable in connection with these May meetings that there is manifest not only an increase in income, but also an increase in interest on the part of the public, and a remarkable revival of sacred eloquence. The *Watchman* speaks of the meeting of the Wesleyan Missionary Society in Exeter Hall, as a "glorious meeting," and adds: "It has been our happiness to attend a great many fine missionary meetings in that celebrated, and sometimes decried building, and we will not go so far as to say that, in our judgment, this was better than any preceding one; but we do believe that for high-toned spiritual feeling and powerful oratory, it has never been surpassed. . . . Indeed, the audience underwent an almost painful tension of holy excitement during almost every minute of the first four hours."

And as if in reply to the challenge from Brooklyn that the spirit of the age is against the Evangelical system, that the great mass of the intelligent community are losing faith in the old-fashioned Evangelical doctrines, let us listen to the eloquent words borne to us across the Atlantic from Exeter Hall, that old gathering-place of Evangelical clans:—"The time-spirit, the spirit of the age is, we are told, against you. The time-spirit, the spirit of the age against us! What is the spirit of the age? Is it a stream that has flowed unchangeably from the beginning? Is it something that is uniform in its action, that moves in one direction, that bears on it the marks of eternity? No, it is just as shifting as men's varying thoughts and feelings. The spirit of the age against us! Well, but there is a Spirit that has been working throughout all ages, which has