

to the work of evangelization, reading, conversing, and praying with the people as they have opportunity, besides gratuitously distributing thousands of tracts. One of the most interesting efforts of the society has been made in "public works;" as large mills, foundries, &c., where some one in authority has taken an interest in the movement. The people pay for the publications, so that the fair presumption is that they value and will make use of them.

The society has been wisely directed by the Rev. Dr. McCosh and the Rev. L. E. Berkeley, whose plans have been energetically worked out by Mr. Dewar. Ireland has been laid under obligation to John Henderson, Esq., of Park, for his generous aid in this growing work. We observe, too, with pleasure, that George Martin, Esq., of Glasgow, has offered £5 each towards the maintenance of new colporteurs in connection with the society, owing to which stimulus sixteen have been added to this class of the society's agents.

Encouraged by the success attending this mode of operations in Ulster, a branch has been opened in Dublin under the care of a local committee, by whom an effective agent, trained and habituated to this work in Glasgow, has been engaged, and vigorous efforts are being made to open up Munster and Connaught, in which provinces, though the Protestant population is relatively small, it embraces a large proportion of very intelligent and cultivated people. It is earnestly hoped that a third co-ordinate branch will be founded in Londonderry, and that, through the divine blessing, healing leaves will be disseminated in greatly increased numbers throughout the nation.

Some years ago the decreasing number of candidates for the ministry created much anxiety in one section of the church, and was made the subject of special preaching, humiliation, and solemn prayer, by the appointment of the General Assembly. The result has been encouraging. An increasing supply of young men of high character has justified those who opposed the lowering of the educational standard. A similar alarm is now being felt in the other sections of the Protestant church, and the result is the agitation of the question of ministerial maintenance—some proposing the re-distribution of the emoluments, and others the greater liberality of the people. In any event, let us hope the churches will endeavour to keep up the standard, mental and moral, of qualification for the work of the ministry. When an educated infidelity is directing science against revealed truth, it is all the more necessary to have godly men in the pulpit, able to unravel the web of sophistry, and guide the inquiries of the young

and thoughtful. How earnestly should Christian people pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers!

While the ordinary means of grace are being extended throughout the country, and here and there extraordinary efforts are being made, as by lay-preaching, we fear there is some distraction of the public mind by the cry of distress raised very generally over the country. The harvest was undoubtedly bad, and some kinds of employment have been scarce; and unhappily there has always been a considerable population in Ireland only a few degrees above pauperism at any time.—The idea of provident forethought never enters the mind of these people. We fear that this class of the community is being educated into, not self-reliance, but dependence. The Roman Catholic authorities, dissatisfied with the present poor-law, exaggerate the distress. It is an unpopular task to obstruct the flow of charity to the poor. Protestants cannot be behind-hand, when Roman Catholics are stirring, and so we fear an unhealthy and demoralizing almsgiving—very foreign to the genius of true Protestantism—is being established as an institution throughout the land. We seem to want the apostolic counsel established in the popular mind, "Let him work with his hands the thing which is good." It will be a sad day for the community when it consists of two classes, the indiscriminate givers, and the dependent and idle receivers. No man really befriends the poor when teaching that the bread of charity is sweeter than the bread of honest toil. We know of no readier plan for corrupting and degrading the population than by training them to feel that it is honourable and every way proper to claim public relief, when self-denial and extra effort are demanded by peculiar emergencies. A people so taught will never battle for freedom, never resist mis-rule, never maintain healthy institutions, never rise in moral or spiritual excellence.

**HUMILITY.**—There are some persons—good people, too—who appear to think themselves judges, upon all occasions, of the actions of others, whereas they may not have the capability or the opportunity of ascertaining the motives by which others are actuated. It is surprising how ignorant man is of himself. Often when he is condemning another he is himself the guilty man. All need watchfulness, especially those who are gifted with the talent of spying out the faults of others; a desirable gift when well used, requiring great humility in those with whom it is placed.