

off more than a conqueror through Him that loved her, and gave Himself for her. Trials will but purge her from her dross; and, from the oppositions of science falsely so called, the philosophy of the Word of God—the philosophy which, and which only, because it is of God, is commensurate with the whole nature of man,—will come forth as the pure metal from the furnace, in which it has been seven times refined.

The Committee, while forced to acknowledge that there was yet wide room for the diffusion and exertion of greater zeal in furthering the Scheme, conceived that much had been done and the practicability of the enterprise had been fully demonstrated. This being established, many were awakening to a conviction of the Christian duty imposed upon them in the matter. The Report then draws the ensuing description of the beneficial effects of Christian sympathy and of the action and re-action of mind upon mind, each developing the powers of each and evoking and stimulating the true Christian feelings and emotions of the heart.

It is not, the Committee are persuaded, the sympathy of numbers only that is operating. There is also a healthful mutual action of the head and heart, at once clearing the understanding, and deepening the intensity of Christian emotion—an action from which they confidently anticipate, that blessings of the last importance will result to society. They regard, in the contributions that may be thus originated, less the amount of the gift than the disposition of the giver. Such a disposition indicates, on the part of the higher classes, a warmth of Christian interest in the welfare, both spiritual and temporal, of their degraded and now outcast brethren which cannot but do much to renew the whole face of society. Even as the genial breath of spring dissolves the frosts of winter, and summons into harmonious co-activity all the hidden powers of vegetation, making the seed swell, and causing the tender fibre to imbibe, and the but yet half developed blade to digest the food for the embryo plant,—earth and air, and light, and heat, and moisture, each fulfilling its appropriate function in clothing afresh the withered and ravaged landscape with a rich covering of grace and beauty;—so must these energetic breathings of brotherly love operate for the renovation of society, and cause reciprocal influences to be felt and owned, and to manifest themselves in mutual attractions and sympathies—in the buds and blossoms of reviving life where naught has appeared for long but the inertness, and rigidity, and coldness of death. Indications of such a change, at least of the awakening of powers that must lead to its production, your Committee, as they have intimated, have even now before them.

The Report then states, that though opposition has already been withdrawn, and many, who at first were lukewarm or inimical to the project, now lend a cheerful aid, their progress will be still more decided, so soon as the Committee can refer to practical results.

Could your Committee once point to flourishing congregations, established in the midst of hitherto neglected sections of the population, and especially to reclaimed families and neighbourhoods, as the happy results of your interposition, the sound philosophy of your Scheme would be no less evident than its comprehensive charity. In such an event, which they have good hope of realizing at an early period, they will not entertain a doubt that the members and friends of the Church would be found vieing with one another in the most anxious efforts to carry out the undertaking to the wished-for consummation.

Your Committee confidently anticipate, therefore, that the time is not distant, when, through the conjoint operation of the causes to which they have now adverted, the whole Church, transformed into a great Missionary Institute, will apply herself, particularly, to the work of missionary labour at home with the resolute purpose, formed in the strength of God, of leaving no part of the field uncultivated; and, with this anticipation, they cannot but conjoin the further assured hope, or rather, indeed, certainty, that as her exertions increase, blessings will flow in upon her, in proportionably enlarged measures,—that the Spirit will be poured upon her from on high, until the wilderness become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted a forest, and until it be given to all her people to dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings and in quiet resting-places.

We are confident that our readers will fervently join in the hope that the Committee here express, for the Home Mission field is a wide one, and in the vicinity of cities, much demoralization is the inevitable result of dense population. The Committee mention many instances of Christian liberality and pay a generous tribute to the munificence of the Duke of Buccleuch, who, though of a different communion, had at various times contributed to the supplying through the Church of Scotland to the inhabitants of his estates the noble sum of £12,000. The Committee, in alluding to this subject, express their earnest wish, that, however numerous the differences, or on however many points divided, yet Christians should constantly bear in mind, that they should be one in Christ.

The fact is eminently worthy of notice, and honourable equally to his Grace's head and heart, that, though he himself is a member of a different branch of the Church of Christ, he does not on that account feel himself to be less called upon to promote the efficiency of the Church of Scotland, as judging, that, in promoting the efficiency of the National Church, he thus promotes, most efficiently, at the same time, the Christian interests of his dependent fellow-countrymen. If this truly noble example of enlightened and large-hearted Christian liberality might be only generally followed, the blessings which would result from it to the social condition of the country would be, indeed, quite incalculable. In such a case all orders of society, high and low, rich and poor, in addition to the ties by which they are united, would feel themselves to be mutually drawn *with cords of a man, and with bands of love*, into that closer and more influential union which has only to be rightly apprehended, and fully entered into, to realize upon earth the kingdom of Heaven. May we not humbly hope that the bright example, which has been given by the Duke of Buccleuch, of looking upon the things of his dependent brethren, will be followed by very many of the nobility and gentry of the country; and that thus the intercommunion, and ultimate constitution, as a Christian whole, of the various elements of society among us,—results, at the present time in particular, to be longed and thirsted for, even as the hart panteth after the water-brooks, will be greatly accelerated?

In our number for August we stated that the amount of the Fund was £41,944, 12s 6d, and we have now the gratification of stating that it had up to the 29th of May last been increased to £56,415, 9s 9d, sterling.

The Committee conclude their Report with pressing upon the attention of the

Assembly the necessity of reclaiming the large masses of careless and indifferent or ignorant and vicious population. They urge upon the Church the high duty which rests upon her to do this; and they call upon her to consecrate to this task all her powers, resting upon the assurances of the Divine Word and cherishing the hope, that she may be made an humble instrument for rolling back the tide of ignorance and infidelity and supplanting it with a flood of light and truth. Let us fervently trust that the blessing from on High may rest upon her, and both her ministers and her people may, as a Church and as individuals, unite all their efforts to promote the moral and spiritual improvement of the people, over whom, as the National Church, she is called to watch.

In bringing their Report to a conclusion your Committee would press once more on the attention of this Venerable Court, the urgent call now addressed to the Church to make every exertion to reclaim, while to reclaim is possible, the large masses of the population, both old and young, to whom the Gospel is at present, alas! but a dead letter; and who therefore neither fear God, nor regard man. The peculiarly degraded and desolate circumstances of this large section of the community, more particularly when viewed in conjunction with the character of the age, impress irresistibly upon your Committee the conviction, that the universal diffusion of a thoroughly religious education, and of a ministry of the Divine Word, that shall be applied in season and out of season, have become remedies absolutely essential to the safety of society. Now, more than at any former period in the history of the world, the moral and religious condition of the individual man has become an object of the last social importance. Mere human authority is disregarded, or respected only from the fear of immediate penal consequences; and the times, it is believed, have gone by, when its restraints can be reimposed with efficiency, save as grounded in a deeper principle than any which is to be found in themselves. Society must look for its wellbeing, henceforth, mainly to the restraints which each individual member of it shall learn to impose upon himself.—mainly to the sense of moral obligation awakened and rendered influential in the inner man. Ignorance, did it exist alone, might be awed, indeed, by authority from without; but ignorance, when made the blind instrument of depraved intelligence, as is now almost universally the case, is not to be made compatible with the safety of society by any expedient whatsoever; but requires to be utterly extinguished. It must be superseded by intelligence, and by that intelligence, too, which, as rooting itself in the deepest grounds of the human being—in those indefeasible moral and religious sympathies, as possessed of which only man is man,—while it enlightens the understanding, at the same time purifies and ennobles the heart. To produce this result among the now neglected and self-abandoned families, particularly in our large towns and populous mining or manufacturing villages, the parish church and the parish school must not only be made patent to all, but become the heart, as it were, of a life-current to propel the circulation of living and renovating streams throughout the whole neighbourhood for whose benefit they are intended. In every case, therefore, there must cordially conspire with the pastor and teacher all the elements of Christian power to be found in the sphere of labour assigned to them. The best efforts, the various ministries of one and all, in the assigned district, who really fear God, will be urgently and unremittingly required to effect the wished-for social regeneration. It is not in one or two men, however gifted and