

For a beginner, it is really mournful work this. To walk through miles of sick and wounded—when I say miles, I speak not in figure, but in sober earnest—to see here the sunken features of the last stages of dysentery, and there the vacant stare and restless movements of delirium—to hear, on the one side, that hard dry cough of a galloping consumption which makes you shudder, and, on the other, the smothered groan which tells of wounds that would make your flesh creep to look upon even for a moment—to be for hours amongst this; and then, when you speak to these poor fellows, to hear the feeble faltering tones of apparently decrepid old age from those who, but a short time before might well have been taken as models of manly strength and vigour, it is very sad. Often has my heart sunk within me, and I have had to go and seek relief in the open fields, amongst other and far different scenes. Already, however, do I begin to get accustomed to this, as one must do if he is ever to be of any service here, and I can now go about my work with some considerable amount of comfort. And really when one gets over the first shock, which every one must experience whose feelings are in the least degree sensitive, at moving about in the midst of so much suffering, there is very much to cheer one on here in the work to which we have been called. It is, indeed, truly encouraging to receive the hearty welcome which I everywhere meet with from our poor suffering countrymen. And when I speak to them of home, and friends, and their past lives, and seek from that to lead them on to thoughts of their higher relationships, and of the better life which is through Christ Jesus, the earnestness with which they enter, in very many cases, into these things, and the gratitude which they express, and their strong desire for a speedy renewal of our intercourse, make my work, in spite of many drawbacks, very hopeful. God grant that it may prosper in reality, as well as in seeming. Talking of the welcome which I receive, I was very much affected by what one poor fellow told me to-day. He said, that on my visiting two men in his ward three or four days ago, he was very hopeful that I would come and speak to him too; but I went away taking no notice of him. At this he was grievously disappointed, for he knew of no way of communicating with me, till he thought that if he wore his Highland cap it might attract my notice on my repeating my visit. And so he lay there, poor fellow, for days, with his cap on, watching eagerly for my coming, and hoping that his plan would succeed. This incident, you will say, is amongst the smallest, but yet it struck me somehow very much.”

Bonhill Parochial Association.

This Association has now come to the close of its second year. In spite of some difficulties, such as depression of trade and dearth of provisions, it has still progressed favourably. During the year ending December 31st, the sum of £45 2s. has been collected, and allocated as follows:—

Education Scheme	£7 19 8
Home Mission	8 1 5
Colonial	4 17 6
Foreign Mission	5 12 6
Jewish do.	5 15 1
Endowment	4 15 5
Church Library	3 14 1
Parish Missionary	4 2 4
	£45 2 0

During the same period, collections were made at the church-doors as follows:—

Home Mission	£3 4 7
Colonial	4 0 0
Education	4 14 10
Endowment	6 3 0
India	3 11 6
Home	4 8 0
Wives of Soldiers	9 11 5
Library	6 0 3 1/2
Sabbath Schools	5 6 9 1/2

By Parochial Association, £46 15 7
45 2 0
£91 17 7

Giving, in all, for religious purposes during the year 1854, the above sum of £91 17s. 7d.

The Rev. Dr. Cumming.

The Rev. Dr. Cumming is an honourable and eminent example of the proverb, which so assiduously of late has been thrown into the teeth of Scotchmen, that our countrymen are everywhere to be found, throughout the world, occupying the foremost positions in the four most distinguished professions—the Army, the Navy, the Law, and the Church. A native of Aberdeenshire, and with many disadvantages to contend against, such as that most obvious one of our uncouth dialect, Dr. Cumming has made his way through life by the unaided exercise of his own commanding abilities, and the following up of his own steadfast purposes.

Dr. Cumming first discovered himself to the public, as a man of first-rate ability and great capacities for controversial debate, in the memorable argument which he held at Hammersmith with one of Rome's redoubtable champions, whose signal and overwhelming defeat formed the foundation on which has since been established the reputation of his skilful and triumphant opponent. In that controversy he displayed the learning of a Divine, the power of a logician, and the rhetorical force and energy of an eloquent and practised orator. His career has since resembled a continued ovation. As a preacher, he occupies one of the most prominent positions among the divines of the metropolis of this country—as an author, he is known to, perhaps, a larger circle of readers in the religious community than any other author that could be named. His merits as a writer are fully as great and distinguished as his pulpit appearances and oratorical displays. Dr. Cumming is an honour to his country and an ornament to the Established Church. In these circumstances, the visit of this eminent divine to our Western Metropolis will be regarded with no ordinary interest. Yesterday, Dr. Cumming preached on behalf of the University Missionary Association, in St. George's Church, which was densely crowded in every part. By taking as his subject the all-engrossing topic of the war, the Doctor at once advocated the cause of the Missionary Association in its most practical aspects, and arrested, we might

say absorbed, the attention of his audience. The discourse was principally a most admirable and telling refutation of the fallacies of the "Peace Society," exposing the hollowness of their principles when viewed in the light of reason, Scripture, or common sense. The most remarkable features of Dr. Cumming's sermons are the surprising clearness with which his positions are stated, the vivacity of style, language, and illustration by which they are enforced, and the invincible logic by which they are defended and made good. His sermon on this occasion was every way worthy of his reputation, and evidently made a deep impression on his audience. We observe that Dr. Cumming gives the first of two lectures on prophecy in the City Hall this evening, and we have no doubt the expositions of the Rev. gentleman on this interesting theme will be received with that attention which they will unquestionably merit.—*Glasgow Constitutional.*

THE Lord Advocate's Education Bill of the present year is, if not worse than that rejected before, certainly no better. On Friday, the learned lord obtained leave to bring in his new scheme. He avowed the substantial identity of the measure with that of last session. And this admission saves us the necessity of parading details, as it will suggest and arouse opposition anew on the same grounds as hitherto. The provision made for religious education will be held as highly unsatisfactory by thousands in Scotland, and will be decidedly opposed not only by the Church, but by the great body of those chiefly interested in the population of the soil. It was amusing to hear the learned lord expressing his desire to put down sectarianism by his bill, the same as if it were only in the parochial schools that sectarianism was heard of, and as if it were not usually at the domestic hearth that the young learn to attach themselves to a particular creed. Did our oldest reader, in the most retired parish of Scotland, ever hear of a quarrel, or bicker, or fight about Old Light or New Light, about one sect or another, on the village green after school skaling? Certainly not. Our unhappy differences have been generated and kept alive in another arena. The Lord Advocate allowed the present efficiency of the parish schools, but felt convinced that the visits of the Presbytery to the schools did not constitute an efficient superintendance. We could wish to know how often an inspector has it in his power to visit every school in the land, and whether highly educated men, ever engaged in the highest sort of education—many of whom were in early life teachers themselves—do not form as good a supervision as the other arrangement? Mr. Stirling spoke well in the debate, and although a member of the Church of England, passed a warm eulogium on the parish schools of Scotland, while admitting the deficiency of England in educational appliances. The hon. gentleman, however, would be willing to allow the Lord Advocate's bill to apply to towns, so that the rural districts were spared its operation. We believe this view of the case will be taken by others, though many will, of course, be impressed with the conviction that it does not keep up with the abstract requirements of public duty. In the debate it was somewhat strange to