

respecting the Church of England, which for years made him the aversion of State Churchism, marked him as a Dissenter of the most rabid stripe, and startled even the majority of his nonconformist brethren, but then we are not quite sure that they did not at that time need startling ! This is not the place to discuss that saying, and we shall not condemn nor defend it here ; but that Mr. Binney should calmly and premeditatedly have said what he did, goes far to prove that the state of the Established Church of England at that time, must have been most lamentable. We cannot to-day, and in this country, judge rightly of it. The Oxford movement, commenced not many years afterwards, marked a new era in the history of that church, for whatever may have been the errors of Pusey, Newman, and others of their school, it was without doubt, through the mercifulness of God, the beginning of better things in the establishment. Those men, dark and blind to many great spiritual truths as we deem them, were sincere and earnest, thoroughly sincere, deeply, passionately in earnest ; and while on the one hand numbers yielded to their teaching, and became as plastic clay in the hands of these strong moulders, it had, on the other hand, the effect of stirring up the latent evangelicalism of that church ; and the hatred of Rome and Romish practices, produced a reaction which has found blessed fruit in the teachings and aspect of the English Church, both at home and in the Colonies at this day. But for the time, Mr. Binney was the best abused man (ecclesiastically) in England. As years rolled on, however, the effect, if not the remembrance of his utterance, died away, and his true liberality, his large-heartedness and genuine catholicity, won even his enemies, and he was heartily welcomed in all gatherings of his brethren of every denomination. His visit to America was paid in 1845, and to Australia in 1857, during which latter, took place his correspondence with the Bishop of Australia, on Episcopacy, Christian Union, &c., which resulted in that noble address to the Tasmanian Congregational Union on the "Church of the Future," an address which we think, has never been sufficiently appreciated. Possibly the circumstances of its published appearance may account somewhat for this : his friends were expecting a work on Australia, on the country, his impressions, &c., and lo, a controversial volume ! an admirable contribution to the literature of the Christian Union question, but not what was expected. As Mr. Binney says in the introductory remarks : "*From the applications which have been made to me by publishers,*" (His own italics) "I am very much afraid that I am expected to produce a book of Australian travel, perhaps of adventure ! and that somewhere disappointment will be the consequence of my not doing so." Just so, and what was really valuable was not therefore prized as it should, and otherwise would have been.

Mr. Binney's long absence in Australia hastened, what no doubt in the natural course of things must have come to pass before many years, the diminution of his congregation, and the decrease—not of his popularity, for he had that to the last, but of the super-attractive power he had so long possessed. More than one cause was at work to produce this. There were the new men who were rising into notice, and drawing the floating crowd of hearers after them, notably Spurgeon, just across the river from the Weigh House. But the principal cause lay in the vast social changes that were taking place through the rapid development of railways around London, and the facilities they afforded for suburban residences. When Mr. Binney began his ministry, the merchants, the business men and professional men had their homes in or as closely as possible bordering upon the city proper, and these gathered around, and hung upon the utterances of the Paul of the Weigh House. To-day London is on the Sunday as a "Deserted Village." We stood one fine Sunday afternoon not many months ago in the centre of Cheapside, and from one end to the other there were not a dozen people to be seen, and at the time of which we write, this depopulation was rapidly going on—residences were being transformed into warehouses or offices, while in the vicinity of every railway station within twenty-five miles of London "Streets" and "Terraces"—"Rows" and "Places" sprang up in enormous numbers, and thither migrated the thousands