

"How may we more efficiently utilise the talents of our local preachers?" and "Do we attach sufficient importance to personal holiness as a qualification for Christian work?" Not ministers alone, but gifted laymen take a leading part in the discussion of these topics, and thus are the occupants of the pulpit and of the pew brought into closer sympathy and co-operation with each other, and the various aspects of these important questions are likely to be better understood than they could be, however ably they might be discussed by persons belonging to one particular class. The more frequently ministers and intelligent laymen are brought together in gatherings of the kind in question, and the more freely they indulge in the exchange of thought and sentiment in respect to the most effectual practical methods of promoting the vitality and prosperity of the Church, the better will it be for both parties, and for those great interests which both have at heart.

OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

All our denominational colleges and schools are again, from all that we can learn, in successful operation. Never in the past, it is believed, had these institutions so firm a hold upon the confidence and affection of the Methodist people; and, notwithstanding the hardness of the times, we confidently predict a larger attendance of students this year than at any time in the past. Two causes especially will contribute to this result: first and chiefly, the growing intelligence of our people, and their increased appreciation of the advantages of a liberal education; and secondly, the rapid improvement of their temporal circumstances. "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come;" and perhaps no people have ever more strikingly illustrated the truth of this scripture than the members of our own Church. Notwithstanding that enlarged liberality which has been the object of the admiration and the wonder of Christians of every name, the increase of their wealth has been marvellous. And the grace which has renewed their hearts has quickened their intellectual faculties into an intenser life. Methodism has distinguished itself scarcely less as an educator than as an evangelist. Its primary and principal object has been to lead men to Christ; but the schoolmaster has followed closely the steps of the preacher. Wherever this form of Christianity has gained a foothold, colleges and schools have sprang up, and growth in grace has been accompanied by growth of knowledge, as well as of all the elements of material prosperity, thus promoting the interests of both worlds. And as it has been in the past, so may it be in the future. May this distinction never be lost by us.

By an oversight, the heading "Essays" appears on p. 598, where it is not needed.