

If, as a Church, we devise liberal things for the service of the Lord, by liberal things we shall stand. If you render not according to the benefit done to you, God will send leanness unto your souls.

Is it thus with you now? "My leanness—my leanness." Is this your anxious plaint? With the sky as a molten looking-glass, do you feel in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is? May not this declining state be, in some measure, traceable to your not giving as God hath prospered you, and doing good as you have opportunity. "The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered also himself." Other graces are lovely. With these beauties of holiness, adorn the doctrine of your God and Saviour, but "*see that ye abound in this grace also.*" Then may you experience not merely drops from Heaven, but showers of blessing. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

ROBERT F. BURNS.

St. Catharines, Dec. 10. 1863.

Conciner.

ROMISH AGGRESSION AND THE NECESSITY OF RESISTING IT.

We subjoin the substance of an able address by the Rev. Dr. Begg, of Edinburg, on the occasion of opening the "Protestant Institute of Scotland," on the 12th November last. Our readers need not be informed that in our own land, Popery has been making at least as vigorous efforts for its extension, and that it is quite as necessary here as in Britain, to arouse Protestants to a sense of the threatened danger, and to check its growing influence.

"It is many years since it became apparent to the more discerning that Romanism had marked out Great Britain, the head quarters of Protestantism, as her special prey, and had resolved to exhaust all her vast resources in the attempt to reconquer it, as a means of regaining the supremacy of the world. So long ago as 1838, Sir Robert Peel, who was a sufficiently cool observer, and had good opportunities said,—"*Independently of thus rousing the English members, and England generally, to the importance of the Church extension question, he thought it was of the highest moment that the English and Scotch Establishments should unite in these days on the common ground of the Protestant faith in resisting the encroachments of the Church of Rome. It is impossible, I think, (he said with great earnestness of tone and manner) to look at the progress Popery is now making, and the efforts it is putting forth, without anxiety and alarm. The establishment of the order of the Jesuits in most of the countries of Europe, the movements in Prussia and Belgium, the increase of Popish chapels and seminaries in our country, show us too clearly what we have to dread; and I am persuaded (he continued) that we shall ere long see a struggle arise, in which we shall have again to determine the question whether Popery or Protestantism is to have the ascendancy.*"

THE PAPAL AGGRESSION.

At a considerable interval there followed what was called the Papal aggression, whereby England was taken formal possession of, and parcelled out into dioceses in name of the Pope. That event stirred Great Britain to its utmost depths. Scotland was specially roused on the occasion. No fewer than 491