

THE HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD.

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PROGRESS OF THE REDEEMER'S KINGDOM.

Nothing can possibly be of deeper interest to us individually, than our own relationship to Christ and His kingdom—for in this is involved the happiness or misery of an endless existence. But no true Christian can confine his attention merely to the concerns of his own soul. No sooner do we realize the fact that we are identified with Christ's cause and kingdom, than our hearts enlarge, our sympathies widen, and we watch with hopeful anxiety every step taken for the promotion of that cause and the extension of that kingdom. As every loyal citizen of a nation engaged in war, waits with beating heart for tidings from the high places of the field, and greatly rejoices when the forces of the enemy are compelled to retreat, and his strong places are taken, and his guns are turned against himself, so every member of the kingdom of Christ delights to mark the lowered standard of the host of Satan, and the victories achieved by those who enlist under the Banner of the Cross. The battle-field which we must watch is world-wide, and the struggle in which we must engage will last as long as life itself.

In surveying this vast field we think we can mark distinct progress on the part of the followers of Christ. We have before us in various shapes the reports for the past year of nearly all the religious organizations in Evangelical Christendom,—of Presbyterian Synods and Assemblies, Congregationalist Associations and Conventions, Episcopalian Convocations; and of those numerous and admirable Societies which aim at the diffusion of truth by means of Bibles and Tracts, and which solicit and secure the support of all denominations; we have also the reports of numerous missionary and benevolent societies—all aiming at the one great object of bringing sinful man back to God and holiness through the knowledge of Jesus Christ. On the whole there is, as we have said, decided progress. The lines of the enemy have been pushed back. Multitudes have been rescued from his tyrannous grasp, and strong posts have been seized upon which will be used as a vantage ground for future advances. Let us review briefly the proofs of this statement.

1. The funds contributed for religious objects. Notwithstanding the terrible confusion which prevailed in the United States during the last year, the religious societies report only a slight falling off in their receipts. The churches are working with all diligence both in the home and foreign field; and in their peculiar and distressful circumstances not to fall off, not to go actually backward, is to do a great deal. But whatever deficiencies are to be noticed in the religious finances of the United States, are much more than counter-balanced by the advance made in the same department by British