

whether in behalf of our rural, village, town, or city population. The work ought to be done by churches, in their organised capacity.

City Missions, as formed by Mr. Nasmith, recognise neither church nor pastor, sect nor party, nor any particular school of theology; and their only rallying points are, the doctrine and diffusion of the "common salvation." Hence, their committees of management are promiscuous bodies of Christian men, bound by no other ties than those of the common faith, and of a common object; and everything relating to their constitution, their supporters, and their agents, is conventional and artificial; there is nothing appertaining to them congregational or natural. It is, therefore, demonstrably certain, that an institution so founded, so framed, so supported, and so worked, must labour under a variety of disadvantages, affecting at once its unity, efficiency, and duration. Men, however, of a catholic spirit, and of a generous nature, but with small experience, and with more of an imaginative than of a judicial faculty, may be found admiring this very defect as a chief excellence; but unless such admiration can work a miracle, time, the great corrector of all errors, will expose the fallacy.

This view of City and Town Missions, however, must not be misunderstood, or construed into hostility. In our judgment this species of association, with every other existing for a kindred object, whatever be their defects, is infinitely better than an absolute famine of the word of life. Such missions are an invaluable confederacy, in every locality where multitudes are perishing, and where churches exist not, or existing are asleep, and reposing in criminal indifference. But, wherever