

of increase is only thirty per cent? Let us work in the future with tenfold diligence that the next census may show us abreast of our neighbours—that God may be glorified through our exertions—that souls may be saved—that the truth may be honoured, and that Jesus may rejoice as he sees of the travail of His soul.

While there has been a quickening into spiritual life in many of our congregations—and large additions to the membership of the Church, we have had no general Revival of Religion. This is now the great want of our communion. We are too cold and dead, too worldly, selfish, faithless. Let the prayer ascend from ten thousand family altars and from all our pulpits and prayer meetings,—Come from the four winds O Breath; breathe upon these slain that they may live. Awake, O north wind; and come thou south; blow upon our garden that the spices thereof may flow out. Let our Beloved Saviour come into His Garden, this vineyard which he hath planted and hedged and husbanded, and let Him gather for himself much pleasant fruit!

In our home field death has not been permitted to make any serious breach upon the ranks of the ministry—the Rev. Mr. Miller of Mabou being the only one taken away; and he had long been laid aside from regular service. Four young men have been ordained over congregations and eight have been licensed to preach the Gospel. The Colleges have been sustained in all their efficiency, and the number of students in attendance is as large as the most sanguine ventured to anticipate. Our Foreign Mission has been sorely tried. As a Church we have seen great affliction in the death of missionaries and converts; but let us rejoice while we weep, and thank God that he has deemed us worthy of bearing so illustrious a Cross.

In no previous year of its history did a Presbyterian Ministry proclaim the Gospel to so many of the people of these Provinces. The results are all in the hand of God; but we may rest assured that his word will never return to Him without accomplishing its errand. Still we may ask ourselves as a Church, Have we done what we could to edify, enlighten and save? Have we gone to the highways and byways, seeking the lost and leading them to the safety and bliss of the Redeemer's fold? If we find that we have neglected any opportunity of usefulness let us be more on the alert in future.

And how does that future unfold before us? What does it promise or threaten? What of awful or mysterious, what of glorious, does it embosom? The purposes of God are daily ripening towards full fruition in us as individuals, and in the Church to which we belong. He watches over the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces and expects much from it, and from us as belonging to it. We need not expect to see the Church catholic or any particular section of it, free from trouble, perfectly peaceful, for any considerable length of time. We may even look for painful divisions and jarings. While men are sinful and fallible these things will be so. We will misunderstand and misinterpret each other; and so our affections become alienated and we sometimes forget that we are brethren washed in the blood of the same Saviour! It is well perhaps that there should be turmoils and jarings even in the Church; at least, it is well that God can over-rule them for good. The beautiful blue sea itself would soon purify were it stagnant; and the air we breathe would quickly change to poison were it not for its commotions and storms, disastrous as these may sometimes prove. Still, our obvious duty is to promote the unity of the Church with all diligence and faithfulness; loving the brethren even though they should seem to hate us; removing every stumbling-block; walking and working in love towards all. Many a noble ship,