

time, unhappily, much irreligion in all nominally Christian lands ; but this is not a new thing ; there has always been irreligion ; and so, as Christians generally believe, there will continue to be until Christ comes in person to reign on the earth. This irreligion is, in part, in the form of intellectual unbelief ; but it is much more in the form of crime, vice, injustice, cruelty, falsehood and selfishness of every kind—all of which Christianity condemns, and has declared war against. A religion which is so exacting in its demands as Christianity is, and was so unpromising at its beginning, and yet has spread as Christianity has done, and has so strong a hold on mankind at this day, is certainly not dead, is not dying, is not a failure.

It is undoubtedly an exacting religion, as well as a true and the only true religion ; but its exactions are such as promote the present as well as future well-being of the race ; for, what is it that Christianity requires of us ? It requires personal purity and godliness. As regards conduct towards others, it requires that in every act of life each of us enquire : What does honesty require ? What do justice and fair-dealing require of us ? What does humanity require of us ? What does the influence of our example require of us ? As regards example, you young men may by your example help to