

and make us willing to submit to every kind of sacrifice? How is it, I say? Just because of the weakness of our faith. We do not believe these facts, or we believe them with a faith so feeble and so wavering, as scarcely to deserve the name.—*James's Pastoral Addresses for 1841.*

VOLUNTARIISM.—At a late Meeting of the Voluntary Church Society, the Rev. Dr. Campbell thus alluded to the recent work of Baron de Tecquerville, in proof of the advantages resulting from the separation of Church and state:

I have only one more witness; but that is no ordinary man—one of the legislators of France. He has published four excellent volumes, which have been translated into our language. I allude to his work on Democracy in America. I am constrained to look upon it as one of the signs of the times—one of the instruments which God is employing for the accomplishment of his purpose. The Providence of God selected one of the most gifted men and sent him over to America. He travelled through the length and breadth of the country, he interrogated every man, he penetrated everything, and he came back as an honest and faithful witness to give us the result. I will read a single sentence, which embodies that result so far as it bears upon this point. "In France I had always seen the spirit of religion, and the spirit of freedom, pursuing courses diametrically opposed to each other," the Church being leagued with the enemies of freedom and all popular privilege; "but in America I found that they were intimately united, and that they reigned in common over the same country. My desire to discover the cause of this phenomenon increased from day to day. In order to satisfy it, I questioned the members of all religious sects,"—he resorted to an old professional habit, the examination of witnesses—"and I more especially sought the society of the clergy. I found that they mainly attributed the peaceful dominion of religion in their country to the separation of Church and State." (Cheers.) A member of the French Parliament, as we would call it, a leading lawyer in France, and a Catholic, has come back to give his evidence, and this is taken from his report. He adds, "I do not hesitate to affirm, that, during my stay in America, I did not meet with a single individual, whether of the clergy or the laity, who was not of the same opinion on this point."

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.

It is a befitting subject of grateful acknowledgement, that the princes and rulers of the earth,—the nominally *Christian*, we mean,—are fast losing their foolish and unfounded jealousy of Christianity, as though it were hostile to the claims of legitimate authority, or inimical to the social interests of men. It is impossible to look back for thirty years on the history of our Indian administration, without perceiving that in the views entertained by

those in authority, a most remarkable change has taken place, both as to their estimate of missionary character and the results of missionary labour; whilst, in the West Indies, it is now acknowledged on all hands, that Christianity, as propagated by our faithful missionaries, is not only friendly, but essential to individual happiness—to social order—to the existence and perpetuation of all that distinguishes the civilized from the savage, and the free from the enslaved.

Nor must we omit a brief allusion to the *reactive influence* which our missionary efforts have exerted on our own character and relations, as the professed followers of Christ. What a Herculean—what a hopeless task would it now be to attempt the resuscitation and revival of those minor controversies which once divided and distracted the tribes of our spiritual Israel! How utterly vain would now be the endeavour to convince the disciples of Christ, that they might safely or consistently consent to live without the slightest practical recognition of Christian brotherhood! To what an extent has the enlargement of Christian affection,—itself the consequence of Christian effort—been, in turn, the productive cause of other efforts, more liberal and more extensive! How much have the bonds of ministerial fellowship been strengthened by the periodical interchange of fraternal offices! What a vast amount of mental energy—sanctified and elevated by contact with an object so grand and dignified as the salvation of the world—has been brought out and made to bear on the moral improvement of the species! How have the boundaries of human knowledge been extended,—the sources of human happiness been increased,—the seeds of truth and holiness scattered with a profusion unparalleled since the first age of Christianity!

Let us "thank God, and take courage." Let our recollections of the past strengthen our confidence in the wisdom, power, and faithfulness of God,—let it animate and sustain our zeal, in whatever department of Christian effort our lot may have providentially fallen,—let it prevent all distrust as to the ultimate realization of our most sanguine hopes, and the full and favourable answer to every intercession on behalf of the church and of the world, which an enlightened zeal has presented, or may yet present, at the throne of mercy.