

was instant in season and out of season, and gloried in the cause. By the gainsayers, he was deemed an enthusiast, a madman, sacrificing the most splendid prospects of life in the most foolish manner, to the dissemination of doctrines which they considered offensive and disgraceful; but he knew that his commission was from above; that he had been sent to preach the Gospel; that he was a chosen instrument in the hands of God, to carry the joyful tidings of grace and glory to the uttermost parts of the earth. It is not intended to compare the Missionaries of the present day with this eminent servant of God; the powers and privileges conferred upon him, they do not possess; but they have the same message to communicate, and it is now as important as it was when first preached. In ridiculing the Missionaries, we are mocking St. Paul; nay, even our Saviour himself. It is no less remarkable, that many who despise Missionaries as wild fanatics, do not throw any contempt upon the Missions of the Church of Rome—it is professing Protestants mocking Protestant Missions. What can produce this difference? Is it lawful for the Roman Catholics to send messengers of mercy to the Heathen, and is it sinful for Protestants to do the same? Alas! this hatred of Missionaries too frequently proceeds from contrasting their zeal and devotion with our supineness; their example of self-denial, intrepidity, and indifference to what are called the pleasures of life, give us offence; we are displeased because these graces exalt them above us; we are angry at the lively anxiety which they manifest for the welfare of the Heathen, and at their readiness to undergo any danger, labour, or fatigue, in order to save them. To these things are we to attribute the great offence which Missionaries are apt to give; for surely there can be no crime in preaching the Gospel. We have waited much too long; we have neglected this work till it is getting too late, and shall we be ridiculed and oppressed for awaking from our long slumber, and stretching out our hand to our perishing brethren?

Perhaps it may have happened, that some of those selected for this important employment have been found unequal to the task; but is this surprising? Are we so blind as not to see men daily failing in the discharge of duties far less difficult than this? Is it strange that a few tares should be found among the wheat? that some persons appointed to preach the Gospel to foreign nations, should be found