

taken for the substance. It will readily be admitted that zeal on behalf of Missions, our Missionaries, but the plan now suggested constitutes the true strength and stability of any Church, and that without it no Church can thrive, but, on the contrary, must decay and die out as an ecclesiastical organism; *Record* to realize still more clearly the social and to supply material for strengthening and other circumstances in which Clergymen such zeal, and evoking Christian sympathy abroad are placed. In this way two very desirable objects would be attained: Missionaries would derive encouragement from the thought that, amid their labors, often arduous and ill requited, they had the sympathy and prayers of their fellow brethren at home; and, while the ties of brotherhood were thus strengthened, the reader might derive edification and instruction from observations and reflections on men and manners, made by those on whom they could rely, in countries very different in most respects from their own—and thus would be cherished between the two parties a genuine feeling of mutual Christian regard. *Fas est, &c.* Do we not see with what effect other religious denominations, having not one tithe of the means or material at hand which our Church possesses, employing the agency of the press in promoting Missionary schemes, and, thereby, through the attractions of religious literature, strengthening more and more the attachment of their friends at home to their own Church! In the May number of our own *Record*, it is candidly stated that while the *Missionary Record* of the United Presbyterian Church has a monthly circulation of not less than 38,700, our own does not exceed 7,000! This is a fact well worthy of being pondered, as it doubtless affords a pretty accurate test or standard for judging of the relative interest taken by the members of the different communions, in the cause of Missions.

I am, therefore, as an individual, grateful for the measure of improvement, (more especially as respects the variety and freshness of matter), which has already taken place, and I sincerely trust it is but the commencement of better things to come. It ought not to be forgotten that, in the case of such a paper, an Editor can do little more than arrange the matter prepared to his hand, and, unless Missionary intelligence is regularly communicated from every point of the Mission field, the *Record* must necessarily be deficient in interest in proportion as information is withheld. As a means of procuring such intelligence with some degree of regularity, and so that every portion of the Church may be represented, and its condition and prospects sympathized with by the readers of the home *Record*, allow me to suggest that it would be very desirable that "Special Correspondents" should be appointed in the different colonies and dependencies where our Church has acquired a footing. Such parties might be selected from among the oldest and most experienced of our Clergymen abroad, and by their communications, from time to time, might keep our people informed of the various movements affecting the interests of religion going on in their respective departments of the vineyard, without prejudice, at the same time, to the admission of the contributions of others, who might feel inclined to become correspondents. In my humble judgment, the letters of our Missionaries are often too much of a professional nature. Generally speaking, to use a somewhat vulgar but expressive phrase, *they smell too much of the shop*; they are not sufficiently broad and comprehensive in their character. Together with accounts of their own circumstances and position, might not notices of the history and state of society around them—the relation in which they stand to other Churches—the progress of religion in general, with the heresies and errors which obstruct the advancement of the truth—the state of education, literature and science, and even the natural history and scientific features of the different countries in which their lot has been cast—I say, might not these, and such like details, form suitable topics for our *Home and Foreign Missionary Record*, and impart to it a far greater degree of interest, to all classes of readers, than it presently possesses?

It is true that, to some extent, such information as I have now alluded to is already

supplied by the statements and reports of greater extent than they now do, our people will neither buy nor read it.

I trust that, as much as any one, I desire to see the Church of Scotland prosper in all her plans and operations for the good of her people, otherwise I would not lay upon myself the somewhat ungracious task of pointing out deficiencies, which I have now undertaken. It will not be denied that the success of the *Record*, as measured by the extent of its circulation, is in some respects an index of the prosperity of the different Churches; as certainly it would be—it our religious Organ occupied the high status which I, for one, should desire for it—the best promoter of their interests.

It cannot surely be said that our mission field is so circumscribed as to admit of little or no agreeable diversity of topics of sufficient interest, for of the Church of Scotland it may truly be said, as much as of any single Christian Institution, that "Her head is the world." Has she not already sent forth Missionaries to every part of the globe? Have we not men laboring, at the present moment, on the Continent of Europe, in India, China, Australia, in North and South America, as well as in many of the isles of the sea? With the exception of Africa, we have not only individual Missionaries, but large and flourishing branches of our Church also, are to be found in every continent. Nor is Africa itself beyond the reach of the benign influence exerted by our beloved Church for the best interests of mankind. In the quarter from which I am now writing, we have no less than nine Ministers of the Gospel laboring among the so-called descendants of Ham; and in not a few instances their exertions, in the midst of a half-civilized and corrupt community, if they are less arduous, are often no less disheartening than if they were carried on in these distant and barbarous regions of Africa, in connection with which the justly celebrated Dr. Livingston has acquired a world-wide reputation. Yet how little is known at home, of the state of the Church here! I have myself been a reader of the *Home and Foreign Missionary Record* of our Church more or less, for a period of eight or ten years, and I do not, in all that time, remember to have seen more than a passing allusion to this highly interesting portion of the vineyard, which, in my humble opinion at least, is as much deserving of the name of Missionary ground, as any part on of the earth.

But this letter has now exceeded its length I had intended. For the present, therefore, I shall content myself with a few brief remarks, by way of conclusion. In British Guiana the Church of Scotland possesses nine Churches, (five in Demerara, and four in Berbice), which, at the present moment, are fortunately all supplied with Ministers, all enjoying good health, and laboring in their respective parishes—a circumstance which, I am told, has not happened for many years before, as the climate is trying to the constitution, and one or two at a time were usually on the sick list. The