

derness of the world and its persevering endeavours to cultivate it, and turn it into "a fruitful field," have been marked with the Divine sanction and blessing, and most hopeful progress has been made; but the application of a certain amount of means is still necessary for the full attainment of the desired object; and were this withheld not only would the full attainment of that object be frustrated, but the half-cultivated region might fall back into its desert-state, and the whole amount of expense and labor which has been incurred would thus be thrown away. The task devolving upon this and other Missionary Societies, in the heathen countries which are the scenes of their operations is, to employ the instrumentality at their command in the planting of Christian Churches, which shall ultimately become the means of extending Christianity in the regions around, and of perpetuating it to generations yet unborn. But those Churches are not prepared at once to answer their providential designation. They require to be nurtured and sustained until the Scriptures shall be translated, the art of reading communicated, and a competent Native Ministry raised; and were the Missionary Societies to throw the Churches they have instrumentally formed too early upon their own resources, the danger would be that, unless Almighty God interposed as by a miracle, the light of Christianity might be again extinguished, or its truths become so debased by intermixture with heathen superstitions, as to lose their saving and elevating power.

"To support prosperous existing Missions, until they may be able to sustain themselves and extend and perpetuate Christianity in the countries where they have been respectively founded, is thus obviously the first care of a Missionary Society; and any plans which it may contemplate for the enlargement of its sphere of operations should be considered with due regard to the obligations which it has already incurred. Recognising this principle the Committee do not venture to recommend any new and extensive undertaking, until the present urgent claims of some of the Society's principal Missions be somewhat more adequately met. Opportunity ought to be taken of the present favourable crisis in the affairs of our South-African Missions to strengthen those Missions, and thus enable the Society to secure the van-