

in Foreign Missions, but to maintain them, the work at home must be made stronger than ever. We must get the money to work with from the churches in America, and very largely the workers must come from the colleges of America. Well, then, all together for missions at home.—*D. R. Duncan.*

#### HOW TO TAKE THE OFFERING.

Write a personal letter to every member (enclosing envelope for offering) setting forth the urgent need. Then on the day set for the offering: Take the offering in the Sunday-school classes. Take the offering at the church service. Give the C. E. a chance in the evening. Call on the Juniors for their help. And then we have called for personal offerings in the evening when we did not get enough before.—*C. B. Osgood.*

Instruction, enthusiasm, system, are essential to the best offering. Let pastors and other leaders provide these. Leaders must do their duty and trust the people more. A collection taken simply to get money, makes people dread the return of our special days. An offering made intelligently and systematically makes giving more and more a joy.—*W. W. Sniff.*

"Laying aside many schemes that may be more or less effective, and now and then permissible, as a rule, I know of no more successful or manly way of raising missionary money than by properly dividing the congregation among a suitable number of good solicitors and securing personal pledges—say a month in advance. Then after the second Sunday from collection day, let these solicitors collect the subscriptions that remain unpaid. This assumes that the church has been well instructed in the matter just before the solicitors start out."—*I. A. Thayer.*

#### OUR FIRST DUTY.

Brothron: We, who teach the gospel in its simplicity and purity, who seek not only to save sinners, but unite God's people, who believe in the sufficiency of God's word, and that it is the medium of operation of the Holy Spirit in conversion, who believe that "faith apart from works is dead," must be zealous and active in spreading the Gospel or by "our own words be condemned."

Our first duty is to our "own household," that we "may be one," so that when we go to all the nations, they may believe that our "one God and Father did send us."

Woe unto us if "we know the Lord's will and do not according to that will."

The Hebrew word *Jubilee*, means rejoicing. The year of Jubilee was the great year of rejoicing, when all captives were released, all slaves freed, all debts cancelled and every Jew returned to his patrimony. The Jubilee of the American Christian Missionary Society should be a Jubilant year, because its work is being recognized and its opportunities enlarged by a liberal Jubilee Offering.

We must do our work for God in our day and generation. "Work while it is called to-day, for soon the night cometh when no man can labor." God grant us a great victory over sin and selfishness in the Jubilee Offering for Home Missions. Let us remember it is a double offering for Home Mission and Negro Evangelization, and let it be double in every grand purpose and effort.

#### THE JUBILEE OFFERING.

The secretaries of the Home Board report more than 2,100 churches pledged to take the Jubilee offering for home missions in this our Jubilee year.

We regard the redemption of our home mission work as the most important work now before our people.

This is the fiftieth anniversary of the American Christian Missionary Society, and this should be the year for bringing this work to the front.

When we remember that every dollar placed in home missions draws three or four other dollars into the same work; when we know that every five dollars spent in home missions will bring a soul into the kingdom of Christ; when we know that \$300 will keep a home missionary at work all the year, we can understand that this is only true in America and only true of our plea.

America is the ripest field in the world for the plea of the Disciples of Christ; this is the basis of all our work in the world; the churches organized by the American Christian Missionary Society help all our missionary work, we will grow to be a great missionary people as our work in America is made strong; as America goes with our people so goes the world.

The law of self-preservation pleads for home missions. Thousands of our people have gone west and south-west from the states where we are strong; our own brethren and sisters plead with us to help them establish the church of the New Testament in their new homes. We should assist them through our Home Board in providing for the preaching of the pure gospel. Let us help the General Society set up the banners of the New Testament church throughout the south and west (and the Maritime Provinces), or we shall lose thousands of our own flesh and blood.—*Guide.*

#### PRIMITIVE CHRISTIANITY IN HOME MISSIONS.

The Reformation Disciples ought to have great zeal for Home Missions. We have the desire in common with all professed Christians to see the world converted. But we believe that one prerequisite is the union of Christians. Jesus prayed that believers might be one "that the world may believe." Our "distinctive plea" is that Christians should abandon all sectional or denominational pleas and be only Christians Home Missions then, with us, must mean the pushing of our union plea among professed Christians. Any community in which primitive or New Testament Christianity is not represented, is to us a "destitute field," no matter how many churches may be there. The Lord has laid on us the burden of planting the cause in all such places, as a part of our home mission work, in addition to the more general work of cultivating the waste places.—*Joseph Franklin.*

If our Home Mission work dies or pines, all other mission work falls to the ground. America is the base of supplies. Our large cities must receive our attention as never before. Give the Home Board \$100,000 and it will do well to begin this work at once.

Our Jubilee year will give us tremendous impetus in all matters pertaining to the larger growth of the church. Our Home Board is going to be stronger in the minds and hearts and offerings of the brotherhood.

#### NOT RIVALRY BUT HELP.

The urgent appeal for the Home Board of Mission is not rivalry to any other work being done among us, but rather help to every good cause among us. As the work of Home Missions is advanced among us every worthy cause will feel the impetus and the inspiration of that advance. Using Paul's figure, all mission work is one body; the eye of Foreign Missions cannot say to the hand of Home Missions, I have no need of thee; the head, the local church cannot say to the feet, missions, I have no need of you. When one member suffers, all the members should suffer, and have the same care one for another; if one member suffer all the members suffer with it.

That we should correct our neglect of Home Missions is the dictate of justice and wisdom; with America our base of supplies; with all our work depending upon America for support and with the ripest harvest field in all the world for our great plea right at our doors, every suggestion of prudence advises us to bring our Home Mission work to the front.

This equalization should not be by division, but by multiplication. Let the Home Board feel that its work is appreciated and that many are uniting in the great Jubilee offering to bring Home Missions to the front.—*Oracle.*

#### THREE THINGS.

Three things are apparent in the claims of the American Christian Missionary Society for our enlarged offerings this Jubilee year:

- 1st. The importance and permanency of the work already done.
- 2nd. The great possibilities.
- 3rd. The confidence of the best men among us in the careful and economical management of the Acting Board.

Any one of these considerations would be sufficient for enlarged giving; together they should act irresistably to secure a gift from every friend and well wisher of the cause of simple New Testament Christianity.

This is the Jubilee year of our organized mission work. It is the American Christian Missionary Society that celebrates her Jubilee this year, and the offering the first Lord's day in May is the Jubilee offering of the Jubilee year.

Opportunity means duty. To the soldier, opportunity means duty gladly done. The opportunity is before the Disciples of Christ now. The great opportunity of compensating for our previous neglect of Home Missions and placing this great work where it belongs—in the front of all our great enterprises. Let duty and pleasure unite in making this a jubilant Jubilee Offering.

The church that is not enlarging its borders should look well to itself. The brotherhood that ceases to be missionary and evangelistic is not evangelical and loses its power with God and men. Our Home Mission work is the arm of the church reached out to gather into the fold the ripe sheaves that are ready for the reaper. Let us strengthen our reaper, the Home Mission work.