

believe that ignorance is the mother of devotion but the certain source of superstition and error. The better educated any people are the better will they be prepared to understand and defend the principles of truth we advocate. It is our ardent wish that every agent of this society may possess such devotion to the cause of Christ, and appreciation of whatever tends to spread intelligence and refinement, that while everywhere and always recognized as an earnest minister of the Cross, laboring for the salvation of souls, the influence of his own mental culture and wise public spirit may be powerfully felt and leave unmistakable fruits in the regions he may be sent to visit. That while each may go to his field of labor in the "fulness of the Gospel" he may prove himself in it, "ready for every good word and work," esteeming "whatsoever things are lovely and of good report, if there be any virtue or any praise" they are worthy of his advocacy and exertions.

Such then is the nature of the work for which we ask the warm sympathy, earnest prayers and liberal aid of our brethren, and for which we can appeal to them as Christians, as Baptists and as patriots. To you who have been enlightened by the truth, taught by spirit, and have sought and found pardon and peace through the Saviour, and now cherish a good hope laid up in heaven, we appeal on behalf of those ready to perish, and with no one to point them out the path of life. To you, to whom the Sabbath is not merely a day of bodily rest but also of religious worship, whose pulpit is always supplied, whose religious life is stimulated by pastoral visitation and edifying social gatherings, all felt by you to be indispensable to your growth in grace; we appeal on behalf of those deprived of all these privileges, only so far as they are created by your Christian generosity, and these at the best only for brief and widely separated periods. Think, we beseech you, of the religious necessities of large regions of our country, as yet unsupplied, by the labors of our own or any other body. Think, we entreat you, of the families and communities growing up without religious instruction, ignorant of the truth, ready for any form of error, and unfortified by sound principles against temptation; think of the great work here undone, of the adaptation of the operations of this society to meet such deplorable religious destitution of how acceptably, and