

vide, and of special agents to collect, means required to carry into execution the projects of CHRISTIAN BENEVOLENCE. Suppose each member of a church, comprising a membership of two hundred, should, according to the *plan* enjoined by the apostle, lay by every week, the small sum of *five cents*, to be sacredly preserved for the treasury of the Lord, the annual contribution from that church would amount to *five hundred and twenty dollars*. The membership of our churches in this Province, is about 10,000. Adopting the low rate of contributions just mentioned, it would yield a yearly sum of *twenty-six thousand dollars*. But the rate specified contemplates almost the *minimum* of pecuniary ability within the ranks of our churches. If now the apostolic *principle* were carried into the *plan*—if upon the first day of the week every one should lay by him in store, *as God hath prospered him*—how immensely would the sum of *twenty-six thousand dollars* be augmented, and never should we hear of any missionary cause *begging* help, or lagging for means to succor and extend it.

The exertions of the humblest may be extended far beyond the sphere of personal labors. Such are now the facilities for the transmission of influence, that we may sit in the shade of our own dwellings, amid the refinements of civilized society, and there touch a cord whose vibration shall be felt in the most distant lands. The former barriers against the intercourse of the human family are, in the providence of God, being universally and rapidly demolished. Oceans, though geometrically as wide as ever, are becoming, to all practical purposes, narrow channels. Mountains are levelled, or tunneled, and continents are linked by the skill and industry of man. Commerce is exploring the pathways for future missionaries to tread, and opening gates through which the heralds of Christ may enter with the Word of Life. The vast enginery of the Press is shooting the light of secular knowledge, of political liberty and of pure religion around the globe. The darkness so long brooding over the world is fleeing away. The schemes of infidelity and the delusions of superstition are coming to nought. Science and philosophy are laying their treasures upon the altar of religion. We see evidences of the approaching day of Christ in the mighty revolutions that are shaking empires, in the reorganizations of the institutions of society, and in the sudden awakening of millions from the slumber of ages. Rulers tremble on their thrones. Social, political and ecclesiastical despotism is losing its hold upon the masses, because the masses are becoming enlightened. The inventions of the Papacy that have so widely corrupted Protestant religion, are being renounced by the best Biblical scholarship in the denominations in which those inventions have been received and practiced. The illegitimate, polluted and polluting alliance between Church and State is undergoing a sharp scrutiny, and is soon to be dissolved. The massive and monstrous hierarchy of Roman Catholicism is tottering to its doom. The countries so long controlled, enslaved and defiled under its despotic and debauching sway, are rising to a vigorous and virtuous resistance, amazed at their past lethargy and reasserting their right to religious freedom. Princes and people are no longer terrified by the illogical thunder of a Holy Father raving and roaring in Rome. A few short months after the blasphemous assertion of infallibility, the Bayonet and the Bible are the ruling forces under the very eaves of the Papal palace. True, the changes are attended with a dislocating energy and a discordant sound. The wild commotion makes sad havoc with the interests of peace. But it is the light meeting with the darkness. It is the truth in conflict with the error. It is the tempest twirling everything into disorder, but the same tempest will sweep away the miasmatic exhalations under which the people have been declining and dying. The times, then, in which we live are calling aloud upon the people of God to push on their labors with quickened zeal and renewed energy.

Dr. Cramp, the preacher of the annual sermon at our present Association,