

particular branch of Christian duty presses itself on our notice as deserving especial regard, and which we desire to make the subject of this letter,—the duty of contributing of your property for the spread of the Gospel both in those parts of this and the adjacent provinces, which are destitute of the word of life; and amongst the benighted inhabitants of Heathen lands.

In this Province there are extensive districts, which in point of religious cultivation, may be termed a moral wilderness—where ignorance and vice prevail to an unbounded extent. In some populous settlements on our shores the inhabitants very seldom hear a gospel sermon; and in other places where the gospel is said to be preached, we fear there is but a small amount of real piety; and yet in these places the greater part of the inhabitants gladly listen to messengers of Christ; this is ascertained by those preachers who have occasionally traversed the shores. The labors of such visitors in destitute places have proved beneficial beyond expression; inasmuch that many churches, by their means, have been planted. Some of these infant churches having been frequently visited flourish, and increase in numbers; while others which are neglected by missionaries, scarcely possess a visible existence; and the reason of their decline is obvious—they are collected from the poor of this world, destitute of information, among whom oftentimes there are not found brethren possessing sufficient talents for public speaking to sustain the interests of religion, and therefore they languish. Such churches, destitute of pastors and neglected in the visits of Christian missionaries, are seldom seen to prosper. With what deep solicitude do such little companies of our brethren wait for months to behold the face of a missionary, and to hear his voice, but when months and years pass on without bringing the enjoyment of this privilege—how do their hearts sink in discouragement! Can you, dear brethren, forget those who are destitute of the privileges which you enjoy? Can you neglect those so near you, who sit in the regions of darkness and the shadow of death? Place yourselves in their stead—suppose yourselves to be famishing for the bread of life, far remote from the sound of the gospel; that they alone possessed the means of grace you now enjoy; would you not reproach them for neglecting you in your ignorance? O remember their souls are invaluable, and they are daily passing into eternity far beyond the reach of your benevolence.

The state of this and the neighbouring provinces renders it highly expedient that your missionary funds should be so augmented as to enable you in addition to occasional visits which Pastors of Churches might make, to defray the expences of one or more missionaries whose whole time should be devoted to preaching in those places which are destitute of this means of grace. This we think would be an effectual means of extending the cause of Christ.