

to the ground? or where art thou now, that they are not in full and vigorous operation? Zion languisheth, and her sons heed not her moans. What do thy children? Follow thine example. Who can blame them? The consistent may blame them. But you cannot blame them. Blame yourself. Do the first works. Be no longer lukewarm. Revive the prayer-meeting. Plead with your neighbor. Support your pastor, both with your substance and with your prayers. Hold up his hands. Encourage his heart. Be always at your place in the solemn assembly, at the social prayer-meeting, at the congregational meeting, at the missionary meeting. Look in and see the Sabbath School. Be interested in the day school. See if the teacher is pious; or if, by his evil influence and example, he roots out, daily, the seed you plant and water, daily and nightly, in the minds of your children, who are your hopes and the hopes of your Church. Can you be indifferent? Wake up, O man of the Church! I call not now upon the man of the world. There would be fewer men of the world, if the men of the Church were good men and true. Oh, be astir! The time has fully come. Judgment begins at the house of God. Charity, also, begins at home. But judgment must come upon the children of disobedience. What shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel? Let charity also proceed abroad, and cover the multitude of sins. Have an eye, Christian parent, to the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom in the training of your sons. Give them education. Place them within the reach of every influence that you know is favorable to missions. Let them at least be taught the ways of being active *for* missions at home, if they may not be active *in* missions abroad. Converse about missionary societies, missionary operations, missionary encouragements, missionaries. Let the young know where missions have been attempted, and where they have been successful. Let them be familiar with the most distinguished missionaries by name, as well as with the name of John Williams. There are hundreds of children and youth who know nothing at all about missions or missionaries, except the sad tale of the martyr of Erromanga. Give the young a familiarity with the cheering details of missionary life, and do not teach them to regard it as a living martyrdom which often or always results in violent death. Point out to them in how many remarkable instances the Lord has preserved the way and the life of his saints among the most cruel savages and heartless persecutors. Let them early learn to trust Him by thus tracing His goodness and preserving power. Show them the result of missionary operations, not merely by pointing to another world which they cannot see, but by reference to the present world which they can see. Our fathers were heathens—degraded heathens.

What child thinks of this fact? and how often is a child told that if missionaries had not visited our forefathers, we had not been what we are—probably we had never been at all? Make instances of heathen conversions, their consistent lives and their happy deaths, the means of impressing your children's minds. Show them that you regard these things with an intense interest. Habituate the very child to do something, to contribute something for the mission, and thus train him to habits of liberality, without which no Church can extend either at home or abroad. Teach him the spirit of that petition, "Thy kingdom come."

To those young men in the Church who have seriously pondered the present state of the unconverted world, and its loud calls for help from those to whom the appeal should not be directed in vain, the writer can say but little that has not again and again presented itself to their minds. Consider well your duty as in the sight of an All-seeing Judge. What hinders you from devoting yourself at once and for ever to the cause of the perishing heathen? You are sincere to know your duty. You are cautious. Very good: be cautious. But what now hinders? You do not doubt that your duty is to follow the Lord's call. You believe, also, that your temporal as well as your eternal happiness is connected with your duty in such a way that the enjoyment of the one is dependent upon the faithful performance of the other. But, you inquire, what *is* my duty?—what the evidence that the Head of the Church has called me to this particular service? I dare not refuse to go to the heathen if I were convinced of my calling. What constitutes a call? There is mention made of gifts, as well as of calling. "The gifts and the calling of God are without repentance." Do I possess the needful qualifications? Have I the gifts which accompany the calling? Am I the proper person to engage in such a work? I would I knew of a single respect in which I might consider myself fitted for that work. My brother! the Lord does not always show us our qualifications. He shows us what He would have us to be, and sets us to longing after fitness to engage properly in His service; but He either does not immediately endow us with the qualifications which we see are necessary, or He does so while He allows us to remain blinded to their existence in us. He does wisely. He designs to exercise our faith and humility. Himself hath said: "Sufficient unto the day." He has said: "As thy days, so shall thy strength be." He wishes us to know that we are of ourselves in reality unfit, for who is at all "sufficient for these things?"—that the glory may be all His own. We must go out as not knowing whither, nor to what hard service; as if we expected to meet the Master in order to receive His directions; still looking to Him for guidance and strength.