

that His Spirit is ever at work preparing living stones for the Heavenly Temple.

We have had peace, ecclesiastically, throughout all our borders. "Israel had rest." "The Church had rest and was edified." What shall we render to the Lord for all His benefits! Let us be more vigilant, zealous, self-denying, faithful and enterprising in our Master's work this year than we have ever been before. There is much land to be possessed, much work to do. God spares us from year to year to labour for Him.

MISSIONARY ASSOCIATIONS.

Every congregation, however small and weak, should be regarded as a missionary association, living not for itself, but using such strength as it possesses for the work which Christ expects from all His followers. We are too apt to depend on what our wealthy members and strong congregations can do. They, indeed, are in a position to do incalculable good. But they should not, and they cannot relieve the poor from their share of the work. The pennies of the humble widow are as precious in the sight of God as the pounds of the rich man. Let us be thankful for the pounds, but never neglect to gather in the pennies. The small gifts of weak congregations are relatively as valuable as the largest gifts of the wealthiest. Hence Presbyteries should "take order" that all the congregations and preaching stations should have an opportunity of doing what they can for missions. The channel should be provided for gathering in funds which God may move the people to give. It is by the "power of littles," that the mightiest results are achieved. If all would do something—do what they can, however little,—a new face would be put upon matters.—Ministers and elders have a grave responsibility laid upon them. They are the leaders of the congregation, and it is their duty to see to it that an opportunity be given to all to do their share of work. Collectors should regularly call on every member of the Church, on every adherent, however poor. Or what perhaps might be still better,—every one should be permitted

or invited to bring his offering weekly to the House of the Lord. Ministers and elders, by neglecting their part of the church's work, often paralyze the whole body. Others will not step forward when they see the front rank so indolent, so careless. On the other hand, active, energetic, faithful leaders infuse new life into the whole body, and secure most valuable results. The point to be aimed at is that all our congregations, all our stations, every individual in our congregations and stations should do something, should work harmoniously, unceasingly, lovingly. Our young men can do a great deal both by direct effort on their own part, and by exciting the zeal and energies of others. If there is no Missionary Association in your district, let the young men assemble and organize one and keep it in active life. Our young women can do much for Christ and His cause. How often does it happen that such Missionary Associations as we have among us depend for their existence and their usefulness on our young women, who regularly go their rounds as collectors in the face of much coldness and many discouragements. Let us as a Church bring out our young people, set them to work, and then our Missionary Associations, our Prayer Meetings, our Sabbath Schools, will all be more healthful and flourishing.

We observe that in the United Presbyterian Church, Scotland, there is a Committee of every Presbytery appointed to organize and to keep in vigorous existence Missionary Associations in every congregation. Ever since the glorious Disruption of 1843, there has been a Missionary Association in connection with almost every congregation and station of the Free Church. These facts account to some extent for the splendid achievements of these churches in the mission field. Let us, at a humble distance follow their example.

THINK

How many sins you have committed during the past year; God has seen them all.—Are they not in the Book of His remembrance? Must they confront you at the