

Being of the seed of Abraham according to the flesh, and being born and brought up in the covenanted Church of Israel, He deeply concerned Himself in promoting all the best interests of His country. He was no secret conspirator against the Government—awfully corrupt though it was; but He openly exposed and denounced the wickedness and injustice of the rulers. He was no political demagogue; but he earnestly sought the reformation of all the institutions of the land, and laboured continually, by His instructions and example, to raise His countrymen from a state of ignorance, vice, and impiety, to a state of intelligence, virtue, and piety. His divine mission was to our world, and for the whole world of man; but He conuned His personal ministry within the narrow limits of His own country, that from it, as a centre, the gospel of His kingdom might spread abroad over all the world.

We are indeed instructed by the sacred record of His life, that, as soon as He had entered on His public ministry, He called and qualified twelve men to preach the gospel, and sent them forth among His countrymen, and enjoined them, saying, "Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any City of the Samaritans enter ye not. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Immediately, however, before His ascension to Heaven, He extended the commission of His Apostles, saying, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." The spirit of christian patriotism, however, so ruled in them, that they continued laboring in season and out of season to convert their brethren and countrymen in Jerusalem and the land of Israel, till they were forced by persecution to flee for their lives into the way of the Gentiles. Foreign missionary operations were now carried on in right earnest, and ever since they have held a conspicuous place among the great enterprises of the church, when in a prosperous state.

We are then clearly instructed by the example of our Lord and His Apostles that our fellow citizens should have the first fruits of our christian sympathies, and that the church's home missions should have the pre-eminence among her enterprises. Our church has ever been, and I hope will ever be, a missionary church; and the very fact that we have now our home missions in Canada is a clear proof that God has blessed our church with prosperity; that she has got a firm footing in the land; and that she is being honoured in connection with other evangelical churches in preparing Canada for a grand future. I am very sorry, however, that I have been appointed to address you this evening on the subject of Canada as a home mission field. I have now been nominally, at least, long off the field of travelling preachers; consequently, I have not those vivid impressions and recollections of the field, which I had when traversing the land; and it is exceedingly difficult to make the subject interesting by quotations from dry statistics—the only sources of information which our church has, of our missionary operations in the country. I do, therefore, think that a brother more recently on the field should have occupied my place this evening. I have, however, some impressions and recollections of my travels and labours, and of the aspect