

the agency employed to the circumstances of the people. But we are persuaded there are not very many localities, where a missionary association of some kind might not be advantageously formed.

We are most anxious to see the missionary spirit of our people more fully and largely developed, and our missionary contributions greatly increased. There is no fear of any injury being thereby done to mere congregational interests. The truth is, the more the missionary flame is fanned among the people, the more will they do for their own ministers, and for congregational interests. It is a grand mistake to suppose that what is given for missionary purposes is just so much taken from home objects. The minister who aims most at raising the missionary spirit of his people, and making them feel their duty to the perishing heathen, or to the spiritually destitute, will really do most in drawing forth their liberality for the maintenance of ordinances amongst themselves. The grand thing to be aimed at is to make the people feel their own obligations to the Saviour, and to the Bible, and to the Christian Sabbath; and if this is done by God's blessing, they will more faithfully do their duty not only to the heathen and the spiritually destitute, but to their own ministers and missionaries. An interesting story is told of a minister, who, some year's ago, was greatly discouraged on account of the backward state of things in his own congregation. His people appeared to love him, but few seemed to take active interest in the affairs of the church, and his pecuniary support was so scanty that he had made up his mind to resign his charge, and seek direction of God in choosing another field of labour. While his mind was in this desponding state, circumstances led him to the metropolis during the time, when the heart-cheering missionary meetings are held in connexion with the various societies. He attended several of the meetings, his own heart was stirred, and he felt the claims of the heathen and destitute in a way he had never done before. He returned to his people and sought to bring before them the great and glorious cause of missions which had come with such power to his own heart. The spark of missionary zeal, which had been kindled in his breast, communicated itself to the hearts of his people. They saw and felt their duty to the heathen in a way which was to them new. They resolved to do what they could for extending to others the glorious gospel of the grace of God. But first of all, they resolved to do their duty to their own minister, and soon the good man was enabled to rejoice in witnessing the increased liberality of his people in sustaining the ordinances of God amongst themselves. His thoughts of a change were laid aside, and he continued to be the faithful and beloved pastor of the same flock. Were there a similar missionary impulse given to the people of our various congregations, we should not see the meagre and inadequate stipends now given to many of our ministers, or the long list of arrears now reported in our annual returns.

Official Notices.

PRAYER FOR KNOX COLLEGE.—The first Sabbath of October is again appointed as a day of special prayer in behalf of Knox College.

When the importance of the College is considered, in its bearing on the