

ism is fast fading out. The Moravian Church forms a notable exception to this tendency. So far as we can learn, it has kept its primitive simplicity, and exhibited little tendency to ecclesiastical extravagance of any kind; and, as might be expected, it has not flagged in the missionary consecration that marked its early history. Let Christians of every name look for a moment at this impressive object-lesson. The Moravian Church sends out one of every sixty of its members to the foreign field, and raises twelve dollars per member annually for foreign missions. In contrast with this, look at the American Protestant churches as a whole. Their increase in financial resources within the last fifty years has been enormous. It is estimated that the evangelical Christians of the United States hold *eight billions* of wealth in their hands—an amount so great that it staggers our mathematics to compute it. Yet the highest estimate of their gifts for foreign missions which we have heard is *twenty-five cents* per head annually. Shall we invite all our churches to look at their little sister, the “United Brethren,” to whom we have just referred, and humble themselves? We can present a more startling contrast than even this. China reports 32,000 native Christians, who gave, year before last, \$38,000 for missionary work. Thus the Church of China, out of her deep poverty, gives annually more than one dollar per member for the same sacred object on which the billionaire Church of America bestows twenty-five cents per member!

Now, how shall we restore the element of sacrifice to our missionary giving, and so lift our contributions out of the shameful parsimony which now characterizes them?

1. We must begin with ourselves, and set apart weekly a fixed proportion of our income, and hold it sacred to the Lord. When the Hebrew brought his gift to lay it on the altar it was his; but when he had withdrawn his hand from it it was God's; and thereafter it would have been an unpardonable sacrilege to have devoted it to common uses. Christians will never give as they ought until they begin to keep two purses—one for their own necessary expenses, and one for the Lord's work—from the latter of which they would no more draw for their own use than they would purloin from their neighbor's pocket.

2. We must so increase the proportion and frequency of our Church contributions that it shall be seen that we regard missions as our principal business, not as an outside charity. We have constantly maintained that a church should at least raise as much annually for missions as she spends upon herself. But in order to do this there must be proportionate and weekly giving. The custom so widely prevalent of making an “annual effort” for the foreign work, and then shelving the subject for the year, is simply a humiliation inflicted upon the great commission. If we may speak of our own experience in the pastorate, we have long since reached the ideal of an every Sunday contribution for foreign missions, so that now, during the year, no Lord's day passes without the claims of the heathen world being brought before the congregation, and an opportunity given to contribute