

than ever before, and should exalt the conception of our stewardship. God claims us as his own, and we rightfully belong to him, and all we have by virtue of our redemption and preservation. We are debtors to all men. Our lives and our money should be devoted in such a way that will best promote the cause of Christ and the salvation of men.

It is not expected that we devote all we have to missions, but that we share it. Let us not excuse ourselves because we are not able to give much, but let *every one* give something. It is the little streams and rivulets that run through our meadows and villages that are of much more value than a Niagara. The little we may appropriate of our penury will multiply a hundred fold, and be a perpetual reaping in the harvest time. Please remember this. Let it dwell in your hearts. Pray over it; talk about it; so when the "May Offering" comes the money may come, and thus make it an uplift to our souls and a gracious work in the salvation of souls that will be translated into song and set to music in the song of the redeemed.

"We can all do more than we have done,
And not be a whit the worse;
It never was loving that emptied the heart,
Nor giving that emptied the purse."

THE MAY OFFERING.

W. A. BARNES.

"Men of Israel, help!" The American Christian Missionary Society have asked for \$100,000 for home missions this year. In the last issue of the *Christian Standard* there is a whole page devoted to the churches throughout the United States, who have pledged themselves to help raise this amount. Why should not all the churches of the Maritime Provinces follow the example of our American churches and pledge themselves to do likewise? We should do this; first, because the American Board in the past, and is now, helping us to support the work at Halifax and Pictou; second, because it will show them that we are interested in the home mission work; and third, that they will further help the work in these Maritime Provinces, where there yet remains much land to be possessed.

Heretofore perhaps not more than three or four of our largest and most influential churches have sent their offering to the American Board. Why should not the twenty-two churches who reported at the annual meeting at Tiverton last August contribute to the May Offering for home missions, be it a large or small amount? We believe it can be done. Shall we do it?

The first Lord's day in May is the time appointed for the offering; but if it is not convenient, on any Lord's day during that month will do.

One Hundred Thousand Dollars for Home Missions is not too high a mark. It will help bring help Home Missions to the front, and rectify our past neglect.

OUR PRIVILEGE, DUTY AND INTEREST.

E. C. FORD.

When speaking of the contribution the brethren of Macedonia and Achaia had made for the poor saints at Jerusalem, Paul says it pleased these Gentiles to do this, for they were their debtors; for having received of the Jews spiritual things, "their duty was also to minister unto them in carnal things." These Gentile brethren were glad to have this opportunity to express their appreciation of their blessings in this substantial way. This is an object lesson for us. We certainly have been greatly blessed and aided by the American Christian Missionary Society, and should be glad of this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of their interest in our work by a substantial offering. But there is yet another side to this question that was suggested in the last *CHRISTIAN*, that I want to emphasize in this. The future of our cause in these provinces demands this of us. If we are to maintain the work at the places where we are already at work, and plant the cause in new fields we must have help from outside of ourselves. And to whom can we look for such help but to our great brotherhood across the lines and to the society representing this great people in this missionary work. Looking at it from what point of view we may, it is our privilege, duty and interest to make a liberal offering in this May collection.

HOME MISSIONS TO THE FRONT.

From the Saviour's last commission, we learn two important facts. First. The conversion of the world. Second. The edification of the church. In performing these duties our responsibility is measured by our ability. God requires just as much of us as we are able to do, but no more. Many places are perfectly destitute of the gospel as preached by the disciples of Christ. The entire state of Louisiana, as well as much of the south and also Canada, is a striking illustration of this fact. Are we to the extent of our ability carrying out the Saviour's commission?

The American Christian Missionary Society is doing a great work in planting the cause we love in these new fields. Let our motto then be: "Home Missions to the front" and let there be a liberal offering for the support of this important work.

J. E. SPIEGEL.

Our best work as Disciples of Christ lies before us. There never was such a promise to any people as God holds out to us, if we are loyal to our great plea and true to our convictions. All that has been done has simply opened the door. God bids us enter with the simple Gospel of the New Testament into the possessions of this land for our Lord and his Church. Our May Offering will be one answer to the great work that is possible to our people.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

I consider this the opportune year for Home Missions. Men are eager to hear of an organized missionary effort among us that has existed for fifty years. They are surprised and devoutly concerned, many of them, when they grasp the thought that this was the prime missionary movement generated by us as a people. They are charmed too, that one of the chief men to advocate the movement was Alexander Campbell. It is inspiring also, that this is our Golden Jubilee and thousands everywhere are shouting, "Give Home Missions the right of way." Let us give Home Missions such an impetus in this Golden Anniversary as shall send us through the coming decades with a new joy and gladness.

This is demanded because of the One who authorized that the Apostles evangelize the world, *beginning at Jerusalem*. This, because of the men who projected our plea and saw the necessity for more unified action in this, our Jerusalem. Let us take America for Christ. I am a profound believer in the fact that it can be done, and in the front ranks of the army will be the Disciples. Let us grow in the grace of liberality. Many are growing weary of the old systems of dogmatic faiths. They want the gospel's Christ. They cannot reconcile the loving Christ therein, whom the common people heard gladly, with the theological Christ set forth by many of the creeds. Our few evangelists and ministers in the Maritime Provinces of Canada, New England States, and in the newer West, are demonstrating what our plea can accomplish when rightly presented. Let us rejoice in the giving and share in the rejoicing.

A. W. KOKENDOFFER.

"DRIVE AND GO FORWARD."

Is there anything yet to be said for Home Missions? That there is much to be done will not be doubted. Nearly fifty years have passed since the heroes of this restoration movement gathered in Cincinnati and inaugurated missions among us. We have suffered from non-expansion a great deal in the meantime. We did not find a thus saith the Lord for the formation of missionary organizations, "and besides such things would be attended with great expense. Men would go a long way to attend these conventions and at a great cost, whereas if they would use that means for righteousness instead of show and pleasure, many meetings might be held with the money wasted in attending these conventions." The individual plan was the divine plan in the minds of many. But it was only in theory that they had any plan at all: they did nothing. Well, that trouble is out of the way, or nearly so. Theoretically we are getting sound, but practically not more than one in ten is doing what God demands in respect of carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth. That is what we want now, that every church should contribute something on this Jubilee Year for the work of Home Missions. Blood will tell. The Anglo-Saxon race is the strong race of the earth. It now controls nearly one-third of the people of the whole earth. It has the enterprise, the intelligence and the freedom from superstition and narrowness, and the means necessary to the work of evangelizing the whole world. Hence it is to the strength of the cause in our own land we look for the ability to go to the ends of the earth with the claims of Christ. If Home Missions stop or are even crippled, our work will dry up at the fountain. We all believe