

those under his own roof fail to appreciate his bounty? So, is the lamp of life to be provided only for those who persistently refuse to walk beneath the influence of its benignant rays, and withheld from the people who are stumbling about in the mire and filth of their own degradation, groping in the darkness for the light that never comes? It is too late in the day to talk about the feasibility of a Church engaging in the work of Foreign Missions. It is a necessity; and the Church or congregation that has no interest in it is recreant to its duty, and fails to realize its responsibility to its Head. Foreign Missions are the evidences of the zeal of the Church—the outcome of the life that is in it. Our own is one of the latest born, and glad are we to be able to say we support one. And let us do it heartily!

Let us ask the objector why is it that the "heathen at home" are not converted? It is patent to every one that the means of grace are sufficiently abundant in our land for the conversion of every sinner in it. Therefore it is not from lack of ordinances that they remain unsaved. It is not because the offer of salvation is withheld, but because it is not taken advantage of. It is not because the number of churches are few, for those we have are seldom filled. It is not because the gospel is less powerful, or the preaching less suited to the capacities of men now than in days gone by, but because people have a stronger love for the world, its allurements and their sins. It is not because there is not light enough, but because they love darkness rather than light. It is not because God's grace is withheld from them, but because they will have none of it. It might as well be asked, Why did Christ send out the apostles before the whole city of Jerusalem became His followers? Why did He not remain there Himself until all men acknowledged Him? The answer is simple, "Because of their unbelief." So it is now. The "heathen at home" have the light shining among them, have the offers of salvation pressed upon them for their acceptance; the heathen of the South Seas have not yet had that opportunity; and it is our privilege and our duty to give it to them. Then, and not till then, will our skirts be clear of our brothers' blood.

Think of the work—what a glorious one it is! Our Saviour Himself inaugurated it by coming from heaven to earth to redeem us, His erring children. He lived and laboured for thirty years, making to Himself a people who were not a people, subduing to Himself the rebellious sons of men and making them sons of God. He met with opposition strong and deceitful, and was at last betrayed by one of His own followers. How often have the annals of missions recorded a similar fate of His devoted followers. Can we profess friendship to Him, and despise His command to send the gospel to every creature? Then think of the vastness of the work—the millions of earth's suffering ones who are still bound by the chains of error and superstition, and crying for deliverance. Think, also, of the difficulties of the work—what amazing depths of degradation are yet to be explored; what blindness is yet upon the eyeballs of those who know not God; what sinks of vice and crime are scattered throughout the earth! And think, too, for encouragement, what has been and is still being accomplished through the agency of the Church and the devoted servants of the Lord, who leave home and friends, associations, comforts, privileges, all, to assist our fallen, wretched, debased fellow-creatures in attaining unto the likeness of Him in whose image man was at first created.

Let us, then, unite together and do what we can by our prayers and our means to hasten this desirable end, until from even the South Sea Islands we can hear the distant echo coming over the wide waste of waters, as those once neglected ones join in the same glorious enterprise, and send their heralds to other lands, with the divinely-inspired message—

"Salvation! O Salvation!  
The joyful sound proclaim,  
Till each remotest nation  
Has learnt Messiah's name."

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### MEETING OF SYNOD.

Before our next number will be issued, the Supreme Court of the Church will have met, and decided upon the all-important matter of Union, as the meeting of Synod takes place in New Glasgow