

circled the missionary character and work with the halo of his own glorious example, completed the honour thus put upon it, by commanding his apostles—his churches—and his servants wherever found, to “Go into *all the world*, and preach the gospel to *every creature*,” promising to be with them to the end of the world.

To the *Christian Church*—its officers and members—is thus committed that Word by the instrumentality of which, chiefly, the mighty change is to be effected for which the whole creation groans, and for the accomplishment of which, the sighs and prayers of the saints have, in every age, gone up to heaven: a word which, as a sword, is to be sharp in the hearts of the king’s enemies, causing them to bow at his feet;—as a medicine, is to heal the spiritual maladies of men, restore them to health and vigour; and as a treasure, is to supply all spiritual wants; and to satisfy, with the true riches, the impoverished, helpless, and otherwise hopeless, heirs of eternity. Not only, therefore, are the purposes of the world’s Redeemer and King made known to His churches, but to them also is entrusted the accomplishment of them. Thoughtlessly inattentive to his designs, or indolently neglecting them, the wounding sword may remain unused; the healing medicine unapplied; the enriching treasure unopened. Enemies may be left to triumph, and unnumbered millions may go down to the grave without help and without hope. These facts, with the dread responsibilities so obviously involved in them, the committee would press, with all possible urgency and affection, on the attention of our churches. They strongly feel, and they wish *every member of the community* strongly to feel, that Christianity is *essentially* and pre-eminently a MISSIONARY INSTITUTION, with the whole world as its theatre of enterprise, and the perfect subjugation of that world to Christ as its incomparably high and holy work. That Church, therefore, most justly appreciates its duties, and must secure the fullest measure and clearest tokens of Divine approval, in which the missionary spirit burns with the greatest intensity, and is presented in its most varied and perfect development. It becomes matter, then, of serious enquiry, how far the barrenness of some of our churches is owing to the want of that spirit; and how far, by its more diligent cultivation and correspondent fruits, the fulfilment of that promise made to the ancient church of God, may be realized, in all the fulness and spirituality of its import,—*Prove me now herewith saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*—MAL. iii. 10.

The encouragement to increased efforts, are as great as the obligations are imperative. The gradual ingathering of souls to Christ in Ireland and our home mission stations; the glorious out-pourings of the Divine Spirit in Canada; the condition of millions of our “own flesh,” and our own countrymen, perishing for lack of knowledge; and the loud and repeated calls to send to them the word of life and the messengers of salvation, present incitements which powerfully appeal to all the sympathies of the renewed heart, and encouragingly invite all the labours and sacrifices of christian faith and love. Let *all*, then, come up to the *help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty*. Let the means recommended in the resolutions of the Conference missionary

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