

to its centre. And I am glad to believe that a vital interest has of late been created, and still lives in the hearts of the people; yet when we stand up, we still need to advocate the claims of the foreign mission work upon the christian, to greater liberality and to more fervent prayer.

The history of foreign missions began only 70 or 80 years ago; till that date, the church was not alive to her responsibility, and did not realize her responsibility. The church which Christ and His Apostles founded was decidedly a missionary church. We find that the Apostle Paul did not remain at home, but went from place to place. At the time to which I referred already, this spirit seemed to be caught up by the christian men of the time, and they, like Paul, went to the neglected portions of the world—to Africa, to India, and even the *Islands of the South Seas*; and these places are now themselves alive to missionary enterprise.

But you must not think because men go to the Foreign Mission Field that they have not the attachment of those who remain. Friends and friendships are dear to those who leave you to-morrow for the far off *Islands of the sea*. When we think of those who have been kind to us, of those who have counselled us, and of those who reproved us when we needed reproof, it must not be supposed that we go without feeling keenly the pang of parting. On this point, therefore, let us all be in earnest. We feel that we have your sympathy. We would like to feel, when we are far away from you, when we are on the stormy sea, when there can be no sail spread but a little piece of the foretop-sail, when one week the ropes refuse to work because of the ice with which they are hardened into uselessness, and when the next week the tar is running off the ropes and ship's sides with the heat, that your prayers are ascending from the family circle, from the Sunday schools, and from the great congregation, on our behalf. You remember how the prayer of Elijah sealed up the skies, and how again his prayer in due time brought rain upon the earth. Then remember, also, our praying Saviour, how he went up the mountain to pray. With your prayers offered up to God on our behalf, we will bring in souls to the Saviour. And it is by the means of work and prayer that the whole world will be ultimately brought in to Christ. We who are to sail to-morrow bid you who remain at home God speed in this your work; and whether we meet in this world or not, we will meet in the promised land. We go forth to-morrow as your representatives to the great deep darkness of heathenism, and we ask your pray-

ers and your sympathy. May God enable you to pray as you ought, and us to labour in the Lord. Farewell.

Prayer was then offered to God for His blessing to go with and accompany the missionaries in their field of labour; thereafter the other missionary, the Rev. John W. McKenzie, was called upon—who said:—

Can we for a moment think of the love of God to us without being lost "in wonder, love and praise!" God has been causing the outgoing of the morning and evening to rejoice over us. What are all our temporal mercies in comparison with the great gift of God, the gift of His Son. The Great God never beheld an object so precious as that which He gave for the world. Yes, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Now, what of all this if men had not heard of His infinite love? We have been highly favoured, we have enjoyed the means of grace, we have His own word, His church and the sacraments. His word tells us of His covenant with His Son; the advent and life and death of His Son are all known to us. We are told of his dying on Calvary's cross for us, saying thereby, "I intend to pay the debt of the sinner to the uttermost farthing." Now we have heard all that. All these things are known to us; but God has not so highly favoured all. He has passed others by. Why he has done so, we cannot tell. They are worshippers of gods of wood and stone that cannot save; but God hath committed to us the ten talents of the gospel, and hath said, "Occupy till I come." The gospel is a talent He hath committed to us, and therewith He gave us His command: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." And "whoso seeth his brother need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" Now, we have professed to have found Jesus Christ as precious to our souls, and there are yet two-thirds of the human race in the depths of heathenism; and, unless we feed them with the bread of life, how are they to be fed? Of course there are heathen men and women at home, but they may learn of Christ by being taught every day and every hour. How few there are, at the same time, who have not the word of God in their hand; but in heathenism, "where there is no vision, the people perish." This is the state of the heathen; they are perishing for lack of knowledge.

Now God has given encouragement in the past, *blessed be God. Little more than*