

labourers are few : pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into the harvest." While we rightly remember and care for the isles of the ocean and the distant parts of our land, let us see to it that our own corner of the vineyard is well tilled. Truly the present state of our own church, in this respect, requires our immediate and most earnest concern.

The last meeting of the committee on vacancies and probationers reports the lamentable disproportion of *forty-six* of the *former*, to *fifteen* of the *latter*, so that there is "only one third supply to the vacant congregations." Besides this there are some *sixty-five* mission stations almost wholly dependent for the public means of grace upon the handful of students distributed among them during the summer months. Surely these facts cry to us as loudly as did the Macedonian in the midnight vision of the apostle at Troas, "Come over and help us!" Is not the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" Why do our young men hold back? Why so slow to respond, "Here am I, send me!" Let our Presbyteries, our Congregations, our Sabbath Schools, our Christian families, see to it that they are better represented in these fields of labour; and our people every where that they meet those who do devote themselves in a becoming spirit of generosity and sympathy.—But of this more anon.

It is important too that individual, as well as associated effort, be exerted. Each, in his own heart, has a little field to cultivate, a little domain to conquer and rule. See to it then that there at least, "His kingdom may come and His will be done;" that there at least be left no "roots of bitterness" which, springing up, might defile that spot of hallowed ground. So, too, let each seek to be a living epistle, a burning and a shining light in the circle, however small, in which he or she moves and has influence; commending to all, both by example and precept, the gospel in its beauty and excellence. In the words of Christ himself, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." There is no greater hindrance to the spread of the truth than the inconsistencies of the professed followers of Christ. Beware, too, that Satan does not cheat you of this, your share, in the great work. He is ever ready with specious excuses to paralyze the energies of christians. He would persuade the eager into abusing the very promises, and making them pillows of slothful, sinful inactivity. Are not some at this hour restraining effort in the fond hope that what they find so difficult will be accomplished by Him whose coming draweth nigh? The more humble he would persuade to leave all direct, responsible exertion to those officially appointed to it by the church. If they still hesitate, he appeals for confirmation to that false humility, begotten of carnal sloth, which makes so many depreciate their abilities and opportunities, and gradually dismiss the anxieties of their first love, and soon relapse into idleness and indifference. But let us never lose sight of the standing orders of Christ, addressed to each one who enters His service, "Go work to-day in my vineyard!" There is no occasion then for any one to delay a single day. What is done by each may be small and apparently insignificant, but it is by these small contributions that great results are at length attained. It is not by the mighty deeds of a few that this continent has been so largely reclaimed from its primitive wilderness state, but by the patient persevering application of countless axes and ploughshares. So, too, must it be in the moral world, when "The wilderness and the solitary place are to be made glad, and the