

tian principle on which to operate I am afraid this is too much overlooked in estimating the doings of our Church. If a small Church with a select membership does not do greatly more, in proportion to its members, than a large Church with a lower standard of membership, the question, What do ye more than others? should be frequently and distinctly asked. For to be equal, when you ought to be superior, is really to be "inferior."

In shewing how thirty or forty missionaries may by-and-by be supported by our Church, I have not taken into account what support the native converts may render before that number of missionaries can be sent out. Of L.72,000, the annual income of the London Missionary Society in 1853, the sum of L.13,000, more than one-sixth of the whole, was contributed at the mission-stations. I have not the means of knowing the whole amount of missionary contributions over the whole of Samoa, but the Rev. A. W. Murray writes me as follows under date of 21st June last:—"At this station (Apia) the contributions amounted to L.94 10s.; at Malua, L.64; at another station to the west of Malua L.54 and so on." No doubt the greatest part of that L.13,000 was contributed by English residents at the various mission stations; still the contributions in Samoa, where they are raised entirely by the natives, show that the liberality of native converts may be safely relied on. There are fertile islands around us, exports will be created, and the natives evince a grateful and generous disposition. They have as yet no money, and but very little property; but the amount of labour which they have performed on this island, in the erection of school-houses, churches, and mission-premises, is very great. I may safely say that they have met with a pound's worth of labour, every pound of money that has been expended on their behalf.

The comparatively small expense with which missions can be carried on in these islands must not be overlooked. The London Missionary Society allow L.150 a-year to cover the ordinary expenses of each of their missionaries in Polynesia, L.100 for salary, and L.50 for all ordinary incidental expenses, and so far

as our experience goes, the same sum may be set down as sufficient for this group. L.150 is 6000 sixpences. The support of a missionary requires our 6000 members to contribute sixpence a piece annually. Certainly no formidable undertaking! and you may send out one new missionary every year for forty years to come, before their present amount of contributions will be doubled; and even then it will be only 8 per cent per annum on their income; still 2 per cent. below the requirements of the Scripture standard.

If we take into account the small expenditure required for this mission, the gradual and almost imperceptible increase of contributions requisite for carrying out this proposal, the useless waste of money on tobacco and alcohol likely to be more or less reclaimed for mission purposes, the comparatively low scale of our present contributions, the select character of our members, the requirements of Scripture, the steadily advancing liberality of our congregations, and the help in various forms that may be expected from native converts; if we take these things into account, to say nothing of other things that could be mentioned, I may simply ask, could any proposal be more simple, more feasible, more practicable, than the one I have submitted, That the Synod pledge itself to send at least one new missionary every year till its foreign missionaries are equal in number to its ministers at home? This proposal requires only to be heartily taken up in order to secure its complete success. And as surely as God the Father has given the heathen to Christ for his inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession, so surely as the isles shall wait for his law, and all the isles of the heathen worship him, so surely will such an undertaking prove a source of strength, comfort, and honour to the Church—so surely will it be followed with a fulfilment of the prediction, "Lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes"—so surely will she break forth on the right hand and on the left, and rejoice with joy and gladness. Arise, therefore, and let us be doing, and the Lord will be with us.—I remain, Rev. and Dear Sir, yours very truly,

JOHN INGLIS.