

We do not desire that you should give to foreign missions that which is due to the support of the Church in your own parish or in your own diocese. We do not desire to induce you to respond to our present appeal under the influence of strong feelings, or of mere impulse.

We do earnestly ask you to consider whether the failure of a very liberal support for the Church's ministrations both at home amongst ourselves, and abroad amongst the heathen, may be due to the way in which many christians are abusing their freedom under the Gospel.

Their freedom in the matter of giving, or rather paying to the support of their religion, does not begin until christians have contributed as much as the Jews were required to pay.

The Gospel is a law of liberty, but that liberty is a freedom to give more, not less, than was required under the Mosaic law. The new commandment which Christ has brought to us does not abrogate but extend, and elevate, and spiritualize the old commandments.

Although God's claims on us are far higher and stronger than upon any who lived under any former dispensation, although, too, the christian religion is to be maintained not in one community only, but is to be extended to all nations, yet is it not a fact that you contribute less out of your increase or earnings than was required from God's people of old?

The proportion of one-tenth from christians in the present day, even within our own branch of the Church, would furnish in one year funds for the Church's needs at home and abroad, far exceeding in amount all that has been contributed in many years.

If we could only persuade you all to set apart a proportion of your incomes which could, with any fairness, be compared with that required under the law of old, and to divide the amount thoughtfully and systematically among the claims which present themselves in your own parish or congregation and the Church's missionary work in your own diocese, in Algoma and the Northwest, and in heathen lands, there would be little left for us to desire. You could then make your offerings an act of worship, which you shrink from doing now, because you feel that you cannot mock God—that you cannot bring an offering which is mean and unworthy because out of all proportion to your income or earnings, and ask God to accept it from you as an act of homage. Your giving, too, would in every instance be cheerful and happy, and the Church's appeals would be free from the reproaches with which they are now unavoidably filled.

Moreover, the work which the Saviour has set His Church to do would be carried on with vigor on a scale commensurate with its importance and the richness of the treasures of grace and blessing which she has to convey.

If our Lord who gave His life for us, who has supplied us so freely with the means of grace and hopes of glory—if He is waiting to see of the travail of his soul in the vast multitudes whom we may gather into his kingdom and make partakers with us of all His favors—surely the appeal is irresistible. We must determine to give, not on this occasion only, but regularly every year, generously and lovingly to foreign mission work—to the extension of the Church amongst the heathen that they may be brought to know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent.

Alas! for us christians in this ecclesiastical province if our love for God and our gratitude to our Saviour are to be measured by the amount of our offerings to foreign missions during 1884 and 1885.