

religious life of the church. It should prevent us sitting down to the selfish enjoyment of the gospel for ourselves. It should awaken and keep alive our sympathy for our fellow men. It keeps ever before our minds the necessity of religious ordinances in order to the growth of religion even in a Christian land. It gives us an interest in every part of our country which we would not otherwise have. It furnishes us with new fields in which to carry out the work of our Master. It is ever affording us new and powerful illustrations of the influence of the gospel upon human hearts. There are souls in these new fields for the church to seek out. Souls more precious than the earth's treasures. His jewels whom it is ours to reclaim for His crown. It were a waste of time to dwell on the *claims* of the Home Mission field. It is that field which has the first claim upon the church. We cannot change the divine order. He has put it first.

It would be absurd to leave our own land inadequately provided with the gospel while we were sending it to other lands.

We hear much of the "Cry from Macedonia" as applied to the foreign field. But that cry comes from the home field as loudly. It comes from the lakes and woods of Muskoka, from the rocks of Algoma from the benighted fields of Quebec, from wide prairies, and from the mountains and valleys of the boundless west. We must put first in our regard, that which God has put first in its claim upon us, and in its relation to us. It is not a question about which there can be any dispute. One of the best fruits of foreign mission effort is to make us value the gospel more, and desire to make it known to all men. It is a mistake to exaggerate or to exalt out of its proper place, the claims of the one field or the other.

The souls of all men are alike precious in the sight of our Lord. Reason as well as scripture teaches us to expend our sympathy and benevolence first upon those within our borders. The true missionary spirit is practical not sentimental. It is governed by duty. It works by divine direction. It is willing to do unromantic work. The heroism is shown at home, as willingly as it is abroad. Let the claims of each field have their just place in our regard. My decided conviction is that the church will never fulfil her duty until she gives to the cause of Home Missions the first place. The church should give to the home missionary the same training, the same generous provision in going to his field, the same liberal treatment on the field, which she gives to the foreign missionary. No one can give any reason that will stand investigation: why so great a distinction should be made, as is made, between the supply sent to the foreign field and the supply that is sent to the home mission field.

The people at home in our mission field deserve to be treated