

of ignorance of what they might accomplish were they earnestly to make a united and persevering effort. Taking our people, in their average circumstances, and what would you think, of the amount of self-denial required for an effort that would tax individuals only half-a-dollar a-year? Less than that could not deserve the name of an effort, and yet you hear the large sum it would realize. I am far from supposing that to be the utmost we could do. I entertain no doubt but a much larger amount could be secured were a proper system established, and right measures adopted for carrying such a system into effect.

*Duncan.*—We have had our dark and dreary days, and we have all been too cold in the cause of Christ. I trust a better day is about to dawn upon us. We have much reason to grieve for the past. Alas! what might we not have done had we felt and acted with the same zeal and spirit in the cause of our blessed Lord, that we uniformly displayed when matters of a political nature claimed our attention. I remember, with shame, the manner in which I treated you when you first called on me for my contribution of half-a-dollar for the Lay Association. I spoke as if I had reason to suspect that you had some selfish end in view. I thank God that I now view these things differently. The conversation you had then with me led me to contrast my zeal for the cause of Christ with the feelings which I entertained regarding worldly objects. I was led to ask myself, why did I not feel an equal, yea, an unspeakably greater anxiety and greater willingness to exert my energy to secure the success of Christ's kingdom, than I had been accustomed to feel in order to secure a political object, and the triumph of the party to which I belong. The answer was so clear that I could not shut my eyes to it. I felt compelled to acknowledge that the reason must be, that I was identified with the one, heart and soul, while, with regard to the other, I was merely a spectator, looking on at a distance.

*Elder.*—Such feelings as you speak of are, alas! the feelings which largely prevail. There are too many in christian communities who, instead of being concerned for the glory of Christ, and anxious to know in what way they can most successfully promote it, would be better pleased to be let alone, and not hear anything which would remind them that, if followers of Christ, they must not only pray, but labor, for the prosperity of His cause. If Christ were only to receive the same attention that is ungrudgingly given to the world, and were His professed people as ready to follow Him as they are to exert themselves in worldly things, then would the kingdoms of this world soon be His. How very glad do men feel when informed of some new plan, or enterprise, or speculation, by which there is a certainty of increasing their gains and bettering their position; but, when assured

that their labors will be accepted of God, and rendered the means of promoting His glory, instead of being glad and thankful, the painful truth is in many cases too evident, that they would object if they could, and instead of being glad to see a solemn duty pointed out, they are almost displeased at what they hear, and at the individual who wishes to impress the matter on their attention. You have, my dear friend, reason to thank God, who has given you to see that the profession of religion is and must be worthless, that creates not zeal and willingness in the cause of Christ.

*Duncan.*—I have often thought, since I saw you last, of the need there is of employing means to enlighten our people regarding this matter. If it be true that it is a privilege, as well as an incumbent duty, to give, as we are able, of our means for aiding the cause of Christ, I would suppose it would not be impossible to convince all professing christians of its being so, and were they once convinced of that, there would surely be no longer any unwillingness seen in the matter. Why are we behind our neighbors in this respect? I am not willing to believe it is owing to our people being less disposed to do their part, if right views on the subject were clearly laid before them.

*Elder.*—I am satisfied you are perfectly right in what you say. The backwardness of which we complain arises in part, if not chiefly, from the fact that they read so little, and consequently know so little, of what is done by others. Were they but to see the exertions that are made by the christians of other lands, and the rich blessings which these exertions bring down from heaven on themselves and families, they could no longer doubt of its being a privilege of the most valuable nature to be invited to aid, by their means, as well as by their prayers, the work of Christ. Never was there an instance of a community or an individual who was made the poorer by what was contributed for this purpose. The very opposite of that is the fact. The more liberally men have given of their means, the more even their worldly circumstances have been enriched. Did all professing christians know this to be a certain truth, and were they, together with that, to see the condition of the poor perishing millions whose misery cries so loudly for help, I do not believe they would be heard to grudge when appealed to. To attain this object, it is evident that our people must be induced to read and know what the Churches of Christ are doing. Until this is so, we cannot expect to find them interested in the great work assigned to the disciples of Christ. If we wish our children to grow up the pious, zealous and willing servants of Christ, we must induce them to read, as much as possible, of the efforts put forth by the Church of Christ, and the success which attends these efforts. And in order that parents may be disposed earnestly to at-