

and render happy for ever the myriads who are Satan's slaves, by bringing them within the limits of His Kingdom of righteousness and joy and everlasting peace? Who will dare speak of love to man,—which means not love to a particular party or sect, but to the whole of our fallen race,—that can listen without strong emotion, to the cries for help which come on the four winds of Heaven to every ear of the Christian Church, and tells of distress and oppression and anguish unutterable in all the dark places of the earth? There, the living are crushed in want and misery, and in lower than even beastly degradation; and there the dying are surrounded with the fearful darkness and terrors of utter despair. Can all this fail to rouse to active energy every Christian feeling, if such feelings exist in the heart?

As a church, we have to lament the many years which were allowed to pass while we continued more than half asleep in regard to this great and glorious work. A movement has now been entered on, and, feeble as our efforts have been, we have learned this much, that we had within our reach means which we failed to perceive. With scarcely an effort deserving the name, we secured an amount larger than the most sanguine could, a few years ago, anticipate, from the most united action of ministers and people. We have taken a step in the right direction, and in the path of obedience to our Master's command, and His blessing thus far hath prospered us. Who would now wish to recall that step? Who would not feel ashamed of the proposal to relinquish missionary enterprise, and go back and lie down in the position we occupied eight years ago? Even those who then opposed the movement would feel it a disgrace, and almost a giving up of our Christianity, to act on such a proposal; and for this we should thank God and take courage to increase our efforts and stretch forward to higher aims. We have only entered on this important part of our work as a church, and our success has been sufficient to remove all doubts, and inspire the most timid with confidence, but not to lead to self-complacency, and to the feeling that we have done very well indeed, that we should be praised, and may now take our rest and remit our efforts. As a church we are now pledged to this work. We have set our hand to the plough, and a terrible woe impends if we draw back. Every individual member of the church *should*, and truly every real Christian *will*, feel himself personally interested; and his prayers will be earnest, and his hand will be liberal, to meet the claims which the furtherance of this blessed work will press upon him.

In addition to the Rev. John Goodwill and his wife, whose salary and outfit and passage required a large amount, the committee, by direction of Synod, engaged the services of another devoted young man whose qualifications for missionary work are of the most promising character, and who will, it is hoped, be prepared to follow them in less than a year, to labour as an evangelist and missionary in the same distant Islands. Mr. Robertson is now passing through a course of preparation for his future missionary work, and is supported from the funds of the Foreign Mission. Did our Synod venture too far, and were we justified in believing that the Christian spirit and liberality of our congregations would sustain us in thus undertaking to support two missionaries? We trust that the collections enjoined for this scheme will set every doubt at rest, and shew that we were not mistaken when acting under the impression that we had large multitudes in our church who would joyfully more than double even the largest contribution of any past year, if by doing so there was reason to hope that one immortal soul might be saved from eternal death.

A. MACLEAN.