

before the Throne of God ! Could they now be permitted to speak, how would they bless the Heaven-born liberality of those best of friends who supplied them with spiritual food here in the wilderness !—for, brethren, but for the bounty of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, many of your forefathers, who, tho' in their native land, they were accustomed to hear the Gospel's joyful sound, would, for the want of proper instruction, have sunk into the heathenism or idolatry of the wild savage of the woods. The spirits of your fathers then, call upon you to “do to others as hath been done to them and to you.” They, as it were, whisper to us, “freely ye have received, freely give.”—The duty of so doing was our *next* division,—the duty of giving to others the knowledge of the Gospel, and that, through the channels of the Church we love. I have occupied so much of your time, enumerating only some of the many blessings we have freely received, that I must entreat your patience while I dwell for a little time, on what should be freely given in return. I am not to address you brethren at this time, in order to excite your pity or to solicit your alms, in behalf of suffering orphans, or needy and distressed widows. On Sunday last, as I am informed, you were called upon in this holy building, to give, according to your ability, for the relief of such,—a relief which, in this particular season of distress, is doubtless doubly needed here, as well as elsewhere. I am not, therefore, now to describe to you, scenes of poverty and wretchedness, arising from the want of the comforts of this life. Were I to address you on an occasion involving subjects like these, I doubt not that you would contribute, (as has always hitherto been your praiseworthy custom,) freely to the relief of your suffering fellow creatures. But my christian friends, as urgent as are the calls of worldly poverty, worldly misfortune, and worldly distress, there are other calls upon your commiseration and liberality, of a more urgent nature,—calls, which at this time, address themselves unto you. Assistance is not wanted for the body, which is mortal, but for the soul, which is immortal ! You are not this day solicited to contribute toward procuring material food or raiment ; but to contribute towards sending the bread of life to such as have it not ; towards sending the means of grace, the ordinances