

But are we at liberty for these reasons to treat with indifference the last command of our risen and ascended Lord? Surely what He uttered, and the instructions He gave at such a supreme moment, must be of paramount importance, and hence we desire to say a few words in this our Epiphany Appeal, urging you to greater earnestness, increased zeal and devotedness to that cause which was and is so near the heart of our blessed Redeemer and Lord.

We would set before you a truth that is beyond all dispute, that in proportion to the liberality with which missions are supported in a parish has that parish prospered in the highest sense. It is in accordance with the gracious promises of our God that they who conduct the living stream to others shall themselves be partakers of its life-giving influence. In many parts of this Dominion we can point to congregations once dead to missionary responsibility when awakened by the Spirit of God to effort on behalf of the heathen, experiencing the blessed power of that effort in their own spiritual awakening and growth.

Dear brethren, we plead with you that you would cast yourselves upon God's faithful word: "He that watereth others shall be watered also himself." Is not this the truth expressed by our greatest national poet when he said:

"The quality of mercy is not strained;  
It droppeth like the gentle dew from heaven  
Upon the place beneath: It is twice blessed—  
It blesses him that gives, and him that takes"—

the truth embodied in the language of a greater poet, when he said: "My prayer returned into mine own bosom"—the truth embodied in the language of a yet greater than David: "Unto him that hath shall be given, and he shall have yet more abundantly"? Indeed an appeal to history will prove that since the Motherland began to reach out the cup of life and salvation to the spiritually starving of heathen lands, the drops of that cup have returned a thousandfold into her own bosom in blessing and prosperity? Look at the sixty years of the reign of our beloved sovereign, Queen Victoria. How few were the societies actively engaged in mission work in 1837; how wonderfully have they increased since! The Church was almost dead then; it is alive now, alive in all spiritual activity and zeal; the trumpet voice of her Lord has been heard throughout the land: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature"; and the Church, like a mighty army, has responded to the command of "the Captain of her salvation," and not only has rich and abounding blessing been given in renewed Church life, but prosperity in temporal things has been largely vouchsafed. Consider the growth of England's power during this period. Who could have dreamed in 1837 that the colonies of France, Spain, and Portugal

would become in comparison as nothing, and that the island of the northern seas, which the Romans regarded as the extreme limit of civilization, would become the mother of colonies greater than were ever known by Rome itself? When our gracious Queen came to the throne she ruled over one hundred and thirty millions of the human race. To-day she is the Queen and Empress of three hundred and twenty millions. Then the extent of the British Empire was two millions of square miles; it is now six millions. Queen Victoria now reigns over one sixth of the whole land surface of the globe. Such, then, have been the immense changes and the mighty advances of the English people since the Church awoke to a sense of responsibility in regard to foreign missions.

The prosperity that has accompanied and gone hand in hand with missionary effort upon this large scale, as illustrated in the progress of the nation, will in like manner, though in less degree, go hand in hand in every congregation where missionary interest increases. "The mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

It is not so much the large isolated gifts of the rich to which missionary effort owes its past success, or to which it looks for future advances, but to the responsible offerings of each individual whether great or small, gifts bestowed for the love of Christ and accompanied with earnest prayer for His coming—these are the offerings the Lord loveth, and which He will water with His blessing. A very large proportion of the funds of the great missionary societies in England is raised by penny offerings and by penny-a-week subscriptions. The Earl of Cairns, at a missionary meeting, used the following words when pressing upon his hearers the duty of systematic giving for missions: "In this work we enter into partnership with God. Every dollar given to missions, and every effort or prayer put forth in their behalf, are expressions of fellowship with God's eternal purpose and work. He who in any way hearing the call responds to it with prayers, with service and sacrifice, with the gifts of wealth or the mites of poverty, with labor or with life, is a partner with God in the celestial business of bringing salvation to a lost world, and no man, woman, or child can give prayerfully, however small the sum, without a growing intensity of interest as to how the work of missions is progressing." This is the spirit that needs to be cultivated and fostered in every congregation throughout Canada, that the work of missions to the heathen may occupy the first place in the hearts of our people, as it does in the heart of Him whose professed followers we are.

Wonderful, indeed, is it that God, with keys of His own, has opened the doors of heathen nations to His Gospel, so that in lands for