

army sufficiently strong to occupy the whole territory of the enemy. Verily it is a work of faith. And what proportion does the amount spent for the support of these officers bear to the amount spent, not on the necessities of life, but in wine, whiskey, rum and tobacco, the noxious indulgences of the age? Professing Christianity may blush and hang the head when the former sum is placed beside the latter.

But our appeal now is not for money but for men. Our officers must not go alone. A large number of drill-sergeants at least must accompany them. Every officer in Christ's army, whether at home or abroad, baptized with his spirit, must yearn in his inmost soul for the advancement of that army on the enemy's territory. And can the officer at home visit in spirit the high places of Christendom, and see not even the "thin red line" that here and there a solitary warrior, bravely combating the masses of the prince of darkness arrayed against him, and not feel his spirit burn within him to go "to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty;" or if he cannot go himself to rally recruits and hasten them to the front without delay. I am free to confess that such emotions are kindled within me. Oft do I roam the world over in spirit, visiting the mission stations; and if sympathy and prayers could help the scattered warriors of Christ they are not withheld. But something more must be done. On contemplating, some years ago, the progress made by the apostolic church, by having among other co-operating agencies the presence of a few worshippers of the true God, the children of the dispersion, settled in every important part of the Roman Empire, I was induced to write an article for our *Record*, which was copied with approbation into the *Free Church Record* at home, suggesting the christian colonization plan. By this means a few thoroughly devoted and christian families could be settled in small groups of three and four, in fifty or a hundred or more different localities within the limits of our empire, or beyond it, where safety could be secured. They would be

missionaries; help in the maintenance of schools; furnish catechists and exhorters; and form the nucleus of congregations, while costing the church at home nothing. If the families of merchants, traders, factors, and overseers can be found in many parts of the heathen world, whither the love of money has carried them, why may not christian families, pursuing their lawful avocations, show the same enterprise with a higher and nobler end in view. A beginning has been made in this movement, and the future will see it greatly extended.

But the plan I now venture to suggest, and through the *Record* to press upon the church, is the formation of a *mission class* in every settled christian congregation. It is not a missionary association for collecting money; but a class for training young men for the mission field. We need a very numerous body of laborers who are not ordained ministers, but who may fill the place of ordained missionaries in their peculiar sphere to great advantage. Their work is that of teachers and exhorters—men who in portions of the week and on every Sabbath day would teach a dozen or a thousand in regular places of worship the simple truths of salvation. The world requires the help of such men. It will not be evangelized without them. We cannot get ordained men for every work, and we cannot pay them if we could obtain them. But then young men can be found, and at the Lord's call they would go forth and teach the way of life to dying men. Our churches have them, and should call for them. They will form the rank and file of our evangelistic army. We have about 100 congregations in our synod, cannot 50 of them form a mission class at once.—What we have! We would have a class of young men from 16 to 30 years of age, sober, thoughtful, of good abilities and willing to serve Christ wherever he may send them. These we should train for two or three years according to past attainments; meeting with them weekly for study of the Scriptures, especially the life of Christ and the labours of Paul—for reading missionary intelligence, and for fervent prayer for the light, liberty and power of the Holy Ghost.