

generally had three services on each Lord's Day, but so aided by resident ministers as that no part of the service but the address and a short prayer just before it fell to me. The large attendance at all these services, especially those held in the evenings, has been a matter of congratulation and surprise. At Paisley, the large town hall, erected as a memorial to George Clark, Esq., of spool-cotton-thread fame, and holding 2,500, was literally packed; and at Glasgow, St. Andrews, holding from five thousand to six thousand, was similarly crowded. Instead of coming across the sea to kindle a missionary revival, the flame was found already burning, and needing only the fuel of facts, and the fanning of the breath of the Spirit of God, to become a consuming fire. Could all this intelligent and aroused enthusiasm be effectually *applied to action*, the whole machinery of missions would move with greatly increased rapidity and efficiency.

We think we see some signs of greatly increased *giving*. These meetings have not been with immediate reference to raising money, and no collections have been taken except for current local expenses. But from time to time voluntary offerings have been sent in to me, by those whose hearts the Lord has touched, and some of them have been very significant, because the fruit of evident self-sacrifice. In some instances the facts attending such gifts have become known to me. One lady sold a bracelet and sent the proceeds to be applied to missions. One young man took off a solid gold vest chain, and another a diamond scarf-ring, and enclosed them to me. Others sent the price of a pair of kid gloves, or a box of cigars, or a concert ticket, or a package of Christmas cards, or various other gratifications and indulgences foregone for the sake of the perishing. What would be the result were only John Howard's maxim followed, that our "luxuries should give way to the conveniences of the poor; our conveniences to their necessities; and even our necessities to their extremities!" The nakedness of the indigent world might be clothed from the superfluous trimmings of the vain. That will be a new era and epoch in missions, when even our *luxuries* are sacrificed for the sake of supplying the gospel to the world.

With this last day of the year we enter upon the closing decade of this century. Dr. George Smith, of Edinburgh, the accomplished biographer of Cary, Duff and Wilson, reckons the first century of modern missions from 1788. He divides the century into three periods: First, the period of preparation, when the ground was being broken up and made ready for the seed, from 1788 to 1838. Secondly, the period of sowing, when the seed was being scattered, from 1838 to 1858. Thirdly, the period of ingathering, when the harvest began, from 1858 till now. I have often thought of a somewhat similar division into periods of seven years each: 1. From 1788 to 1837, seven periods of seven years, the times of organization when