

ADDRESS TO THE CONGREGATION BY
THE SECRETARY.

These solemn designation services throw us back on the past, while they also point forward. Our Foreign Mission work has turned the twenty years, and reached its majority. During that time God has employed our Church in conveying the Gospel to several Islands, and in evangelizing the people of one, and has allowed us to make a commencement among the Coolies of Trinidad. During that time, our children have come to our aid by assisting in building the *Dayspring* and in keeping her afloat. While engaged in this work have our efforts been disowned? We have indeed been chastened but not rejected. Our work has been owned and blessed, and most becoming are the thanksgiving and praise just presented to God.

We are met to add to our Mission staff, and to pledge one another to increased devotion to this work. But have not you, brethren, and your pastor pledged yourselves already and fully? He at least has given the highest proof of deep sympathy for the perishing heathen, by devoting himself to the work of bringing them to Christ, which involves separation from country and kindred, from parents and friends, and not least from a loved and loving congregation.

And your sacrifice is second only to his, for in your concurrence, we see spiritual children giving up their father in Christ. Heads of families surrendering at the Lord's call their children's most valued counsellor, young men and women a proved and loved guide, and elders, their leader, moderator, and minister.

But to whom? It is a royal summons which your late pastor has heard. It is the commission of the Prince of Peace to "regions beyond" which he has accepted, and it is His message of love which he carries to heathen men. It is in the cause and for the honour of Him who left his Father's throne and bosom to dwell on earth and die on the cross for us, that he leaves you. He then is worthy for whom he is doing this, and to whom you give him up, for He loveth us and hath built for us a Heavenly Home to which He Himself is the way.

And for what do you give him up? That idolaters may be brought to know and serve the true God, that those bound by Satan's chain may be loosed, enlightened and saved. Glorious object! worthy of greater sacrifice and nobler efforts!

And who should take part in this work if not we? who have received such a precious heritage of privileges and blessings from our fathers? And if India was given to Britain to be evangelized and if China is being brought near to America that her people

may be brought near to Christ and the Bible, surely if the Coolies come to America and to British islands, we British Americans may hear a call to go forth to turn them from idols to serve the living and the true God.

Truly it becomes us highly to appreciate and carefully to improve our great and unspeakable advantages, and equally does it become us with grateful hearts to hold fast all our Protestant liberties, our Christian doctrines, and even our Presbyterian polity. These are given to us to be perpetuated as well as prized. But there is another step in this process which I entreat you not to overlook. These we have that we may promulgate and diffuse them. God forbid that we should be content, that if our children inherit them other races should be left to live and die without them! Let us not try to hold back those whom God has made willing to go far hence to the Gentiles. Rather let us encourage them with the most hearty co-operation and send them forth well supported, and well assured that if they go down to the pit of heathenism we will firmly and cheerfully hold the ropes.

Will you bear to be reminded of three simple points on which privilege and duty meet, attention to which on your part (and I regard you to day as representatives of our whole Church) will greatly enliven and make joyful all our Foreign Missionaries.

1. *Cheerful loving support.* "Ah you want our money!" No but we want the Lord's money. As the Missionary is Christ's man, so the money needed for his support is Christ's and not yours. You may refuse to give it up but such refusal is rebellion, it is robbery, Mal. iii. 9, and the money retained will do you no good. What is wanted now over all the Church is systematic, cheerful giving as to the Lord Himself, and such giving is sure to enrich and to bring its own reward. For the Lord has given his word of promise that the liberal sower shall be an abundant reaper, and "Our God is able to make all grace abound toward you according to His promise 2 Cor. ix. 8."

2. *The Second privilege and duty is the carrying on of Home work.* No dead church can maintain a Foreign Mission, but if she could it would not be worth maintaining. It would become a dead thing. Foreign Missions cannot be carried on in cold blood. They require on the part of conductors and supporters, fervent zeal, and this manifested by home work.

Be assured your chief mission field is in Merigomish. Let the elder look to his own district, the teacher to his own class, the father and mother to their own household, and all of us be found doing "our Father's business" within our allotted sphere, and