

but the true spirit of the gospel is, that whatever is proper for a missionary to do, or whatever may be expected of him in the way of making self-sacrifices, is equally obligatory on every Christian. "Every individual member of the Church has been enlightened and quickened, not for himself only, but that he may tell others what the Lord has done for his soul, to promote the common salvation, and pray that Christ's will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." These are considerations which should much engage the thoughts of *all*. We should pray earnestly, to be wholly delivered from this natural disposition, to shrink from trying, self-denying duties and to cast them on *others*. Hence, it becomes the Christian faithfully and solemnly to put this inquiry to his soul;—am I doing *all* in the way of making self-denial and self-sacrifice for the conversion of souls which the gospel demands of me?—The minister, at home, should speak much to his own soul & to his people, on this subject. Let the church then see, that she both theoretically and practically teaches, that *all*, whether it be the self-denying and devoted missionary, in some *far distant* land of heathendom, the minister *at home*, in the discharge of his pastoral duties, the husbandman, at the plough, the merchant, in the counting-house, the mechanic, in the work-shop, or the sailor, on the broad ocean, *should* consider themselves under equal obligation to be wholly consecrated to the promotion of the common salvation—in the way of making self-sacrifices, of earnestness, zeal and prayerfulness.—When the church is imbued with such a spirit, then, and not till then, will the banner of the cross move on, carrying its benign influences, with rapid strides—in such a manner as shall cause the powers of darkness to retreat in dismay, bringing the glad tidings of peace to many a heathen ear, and the heaven-born sweets of salvation to many a *perishing* soul.

To return from this digression, I would observe in the next place, that tho' these remarks are in accordance with the whole tenor of Scripture, yet it is equally true, that the duties of Christians are various,—requiring various abilities, qualifications and developements of these. As in the tillage and extension of a vine-yard, there are a great variety of departments of labour, requiring an equally great variety of genius and qualifications; incurring different amounts of responsibility: so also in the cultivation and extension of the Lord's vineyard, there is also an equally great variety of departments,