

But that sweet singer of Israel, Isaac Watts, has a homely verse which may also fit the case:—

“So, when a raging fever burns,
We turn from side to side by turns;
’Tis but a poor relief we gain,
We change the place, but keep the pain.”

Our missionary brethren need not think that their troubles will be over, when they come to deal only with a committee on this side of the Atlantic. They will often find that they could have made better terms with the “old gentleman,” than with their colonial brothers. The former has a longer purse, and is very liberal where he happens to take a fancy, albeit he is rather uncertain in that matter; the latter may give longer, but will not give more; they will ask as many questions, and are very likely not to be so punctual each quarter-day. Being dependent, having to ask for aid, being subject to investigation and criticism, and having weak and sore places exposed to view—these things will make the shoe pinch, whosoever your cordwainer.

Let us calmly look the consequences of separation in the face.

Are we *able* to be independent? That is, to carry on our work to its present extent, and to enter on aggressive movements, without English aid? Can the churches receiving aid do so much more for their pastors, and these and the self-supporting so increase their missionary contributions, as to make up the deficiency, were the Colonial Society’s grant withdrawn? If so, that Society is *more than right* in the course it has taken, and we ought to be ashamed of ourselves that we have needed to be *driven* to such a position!

Now, we are very deeply impressed with the conviction, that christian people everywhere have a great deal to learn in the matters of giving and denying themselves in order to give. Even the seemingly large donations of the wealthy, when compared with the scale of their personal expenditure, often shrivel up into less than the widow’s mite. If we were asked to “call God to record upon our soul,” whether there is the actual ability among us to respond to the recent call for twenty-five subscriptions of \$100; we should hardly burst out with an immediate, “No! out of the question!” But we must look at such matters as practical men, not according to some ideal standard. The constituents of the Colonial Society themselves, doubtless, are not so without sin, as to be entitled to cast stones at us. The standard of giving in Canada, must be compared with that which is attained in England, and that amongst the Congregationalists with that of other bodies in the colony; and though “comparing ourselves with ourselves” be “not wise,” yet, on that principle, we think that few, if any, will say that we are ready to declare immediate independence. We are working each other up to that point, but it takes time.

Some believe that, after separation, it will still be possible to obtain a grant from the Colonial Society for our work. But what jot or tittle of authority