

ments would thus be easily met; and the sphere of our missionary operations rapidly extended. But, though in some cases pledges have been redeemed, and anticipations realized, yet the slightest perusal of the following lists of contributions will shew that the example set has been but partially imitated. Those lists exhibit, indeed, some individual subscriptions, and public collections and juvenile and sabbath school contributions, which do honour to the parties concerned, and to the character of the churches with which they are associated. In the latter respect Liverpool stands pre-eminent, and arrangements are made to render the present year still more productive than the past. But those lists present instances yet more numerous, of a very different character; and the *entire* sum raised in our home circuits for missionary objects, whether viewed in relation to the ability possessed by them, or compared with the sums raised by the Wesleyans and other dissenting Communities, must be deemed unsatisfactory by any who understand the character and objects of the religion they profess, the exigencies of the times in which they live, and the responsibilities attaching both to the churches collectively and their individual members. And earnestly do the committee wish that all our churches, and *every member* of them, would ponder the claims of the missionary cause with that seriousness which their importance deserve; claims, too, which were never more pressing than they are now.

A world, redeemed by the precious blood of the Son of God, which is his rightful inheritance, and the theatre on which the most signal triumphs of his power and grace are to be achieved, is still *in the arms of the wicked one*. While the heathen nations are wandering in the bewildering mazes of their idolatry, and are at once corrupted by its vices and debased by its orgies; at home, the powers of darkness, and the victims and votaries of superstition, together with the apostles of infidelity, under its most fascinating and most revolting forms, are marshalling their hosts in increased numbers, are drawing into closer union, and are becoming more open, and fierce and frequent in their assaults on those forms of truth which alone deserve the name of CHRISTIANITY, and on those branches of the professing church which hold with the greatest firmness *the faith delivered to the saints*. It is therefore imperative on those branches of the church, and every individual member of them, to acquaint themselves with all the means both of defence and aggression which Zion's King has provided, and with the varied weapons of both offensive and defensive warfare, which the Captain of their salvation has placed in their hands. Nor does it less become them to shake off whatever of sloth may have attached to them; to put away whatever of jealousy, or bitterness, or sectarian bigotry may have kept them asunder, and in closer phalanx, and with indomitable courage, to go forth in the name and strength of the Lord; put to flight the armies of the aliens,—plant the standard of the cross wherever fallen humanity may be found; and reduce a rebellious world to the obedience of faith. Among the weapons provided for the militant hosts, *the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*, and which is mighty through him, to the pulling down of strongholds, stands pre-eminent; and among the means whereby this weapon has been most successfully wielded, *missionary labours* occupy a prominent, if not the most prominent place. The Saviour of the world having en-