

It is not necessary to occupy your time with the common appeals which are made to us on behalf of mission work. Appeals, which sometimes are not very intelligent, and which sometimes are not altogether scriptural. Every intelligent person knows, that our religion is, in its nature, aggressive and missionary. Where it is not so, it is either dying or dead. The theoretical part of the subject then is settled, so far as we are concerned. The questions which occupy our minds chiefly are: How the work may best be done, and how may the means be procured with which it is to be done?

It would be unfortunate for the church if these questions should be regarded as settled and solved. I do not think they are. There is room for advance both in respect to, How this mission work should be carried on by the church, and How the means for carrying it on are to be obtained.

But regarding these questions as settled in the meantime, both the theory and the practice, taking for granted that you have the missionary spirit developed among you, I will proceed to speak on the subject of the work of the church at home.

And first, I would refer to the subject of our Home Mission work as that is commonly understood. The term "Home Missions" is a household word. It means one of the schemes of our church. That is all! It is a work done in outlying fields, by some unknown agents, under the orders of an omnipotent committee. So it is thought of by many. And did Home Mission work mean no more than that which is done through our committee, it is yet a great and necessary work. The records of it are full of interest to every friend of the gospel, and to every lover of his race. The records of it are full of self-sacrificing devotion to duty, of patient continuance in the well-doing, of hard toil, of severe privation, of Christian faith and love in those who have gone out into the new and remote parts of the land to seek the souls that are uncared for, and to lead them to the Saviour. The story of it has pages also that are sorrowful. On its fields the missionaries have laid down their lives. And on its fields are found those scenes which so touch our sympathies. Homes without the knowledge of God, souls that have not heard the gospel, communities lapsing into moral decay. Some points in the work claim attention.

First, the *extent* of the work forces itself upon our notice. The church by this time should have some idea of the geographical extent of her field. But this is a subject that only some one from the west, gifted in geography and descriptive power, is competent to speak on. The vast extent of the field should be no discouragement to the church. Rather it is a fact in which we should rejoice. It should be not a disadvantage but a stimulus to the

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