

hear, sensible people, at least,—is not the dull platitudes, and noisy exhortations, and nonsense commonly heard *ad nauseam* on such occasions, but facts and illustrations setting forth the necessities of the mission field, the power of the gospel as the divine remedy for our fallen condition, and of the successes, reverses, and discouragements of the missionaries. Why cannot, brethren, arrive at some understanding with each other beforehand, with regard to the topic each shall take, and then carefully prepare one or two good soul-stirring addresses, to be repeated as occasion may require?

Resulting largely from this want of preparation is a third evil, viz., the lengthiness of the speeches, and of the service generally. Like the preacher once taken to task for his prolixity, we "haven't time to make them shorter," and therefore consume an hour in saying what might be better said in twenty minutes. Few men seem to possess the grace of brevity, or to know when they have done. The people often find that out first! No rule can be laid down, however, upon this point, for what in one place will be considered too long, in another will be thought too short. The truth is that a speech inspired by a genuine missionary zeal, and filled with facts and illustrations to which we have referred, will seldom be felt to be tedious however lengthy; while one limping with apologies and void of any aim beyond that of occupying a certain amount of time, is a weariness however brief. *Verbum sap.*

We think it would add variety and interest to our anniversaries, moreover, were one of the speakers to be charged with presenting a concise statement of the work of some of the great missionary societies in the foreign mission field, and show what Congregationalists are doing for the heathen. Another might speak a word on behalf of our Canadian denominational institutions,—our Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and our College, the claims of Christ upon young men having the requisite qualifications for the ministry, and other topics of a kindred nature.

We should also like to see an occasional interchange of deputations between the several districts, as was recommended by the General Missionary Committee, at its last meeting in Montreal. A *new face* or two upon the platform would be likely to prove an attraction to many whom the old ones fail to call out. These suggestions may be too late to be of any service this present winter, as most of the arrangements are probably already made, but we hope they will not be altogether lost sight of in the future.

The interest and success of these anniversaries however, depend quite as much upon the people themselves, as upon the deputations. A large meeting seldom fails to be an interesting one. A crowded house is of itself an attraction, and gives inspiration to the speakers. No man can speak to gaping pews, as he can to eager listeners. To all our people therefore, we say, if possible, *be there*. It is a rudeness to allow three or four christian ministers to travel fifty or a hundred miles, perhaps at great personal inconvenience, to address you, and you not be there to hear them! If you "don't care to go," the more's the pity; but at any rate the *sacrifice* is required of you *only once a year*, and that too in the season of greatest leisure. Go from a sense of duty, if you feel no warming of your heart to the missionary work. You, of all men, need to be there, for you are only half evangelized yourself! Perhaps the gospel