

sure way of making a congregation flourish than by awakening a missionary spirit. This is now almost universally accepted as a truism, and yet how often is it practically denied. How often is a secret unbelief manifested in this generally admitted truth! How frequently do we still hear the argument, why send missionaries abroad when we have so much need for our money at home? Now there might be some force in this argument if we had reached the limit of Christian liberality. In such a case we might be ready to admit the paramount claims of home obligations, but it is seldom if ever that we reach such limits. The general rule is that the ability is only measured by the willingness, and that a church is liberal just in proportion to its heartiness in any cause. The object should then be to increase this heartiness in missionary enterprise. The great law of our moral nature is, that we do not weaken our sympathies by extending their range. The sun does not shine less brightly on the nearer planets because he enlightens the most distant. The poor man, who can offer a morsel to the beggar at his door, does not love his children less. He is the very man who would pinch himself to the utmost rather than that his children should starve; and the man who most loves the souls of the heathen is the very man who is likely to make the greatest sacrifices for the good of the congregation with which he is connected.

The missionary field is usually divided into the home and foreign departments. In a new country such as ours, the home field must necessarily have a strong claim upon us, and it is gratifying to mark the growing activity of almost every Presbytery of the Church in supplying the wants of settlers and in planting new churches. Still it is admitted by all that there are districts in which we have greatly failed to keep pace with the growing population. It is but poor consolation to know that many members of the Church of Scotland have been supplied with religious ordinances by other denominations, just as it would be poor consolation for a man who neglected his own family to know that they were cared for by others. There is a sacred obligation laid upon us to see that, as far as in our power, the members of the Church of Scotland shall be provided with ordinances in connection with the church of their fathers; and besides this obligation laid upon us, it is desirable for the religious interests of the people themselves. They are likely to be most sustained in their reli-

gious profession when they are, even in Canada, covered by the sheltering wings of the Parent Church, and surrounded by those associations which serve to keep alive the religious impressions of other days. While it is our duty at all hazards to provide for the wants of destitute localities, it is also satisfactory to know that such praiseworthy efforts have been made to assimilate this branch to the Church of Scotland in respect of the endowment of ministers. The parent church has acknowledged the hopelessness of further endowment from the State, but she has not therefore abandoned the principle of endowment. She has called upon her own people to endow, and they have nobly responded to the appeal. You have pursued the same course. You have declared that the principle of endowment is as binding here as on the other side of the Atlantic; encouraging progress has already been made; and it is to be fervently hoped that a growing love to our national Zion may lead to further sacrifices on the part of those who have the prosperity of Zion and the good of souls at heart.

But our missionary responsibility does not terminate with our obligations to our fellow countrymen or other immigrants into this country. You have already entered on the foreign mission field. You have acknowledged your responsibility towards God's ancient people the Jews, and you have already co-operated with the Parent Church in India. At last Synod there was a gratifying unanimity as to the duty of still further extending your operations. And it is to be hoped that some definite scheme for the extension of our missionary operations may be submitted to you. The reflex influence of such missionary efforts will be felt at home, and an important step taken in the way of revival.

III. The next means of revival is greater scope for lay efforts. One great characteristic of Presbytery is the admission of the lay element in the government and work of the Church; and if such lay influence is important in the Church at home it is doubly so in a new country where all possible agencies are needed for the carrying on of the work. The Church will not rise to its right position till every member feel that he can do something to advance its interests. The Sabbath school has afforded an admirable field for the exercise of lay influence, and in proportion as we find the Sabbath school flourish may we expect the Church will flourish too. Benevolent associations,