

are clearly pointed out in order that the vast field stretched out before his eyes should be supplied with labourers. It is not denied that the church has been praying for the designed purpose of Christ, though it is apparent from her history in the world that she "slept an ill-omened sleep." It is only within the last 60 or 70 years, since apostolic times, that any marked efforts were made for gathering in the vast harvest of souls throughout heathendom. More has been accomplished during this brief period than has been done, or even attempted to be done for 600 or 700 years before it.

The Church, however, has in a great measure been depending on the omnipotence of money for accomplishing the work of conversion in heathen lands; and in her various sections glorying in the sums of money raised, and the number of agencies she has put forth to the work, rather than laboring in the omnipotence of prayer to him who has the hearts of all the agents needed for the work in his hands; and has promised that in answer to believing prayer he will send them forth to his *own work*. It is by prayer to the divine Head of the Church that the desired agency is to be called and sent forth; and, until the church is aroused to engaging in a special manner in invoking him to call and *thrust forth* that agency, the work of heathen conversion will be but very partial. All the money in christendom sent forth, with all the agencies uncalled and unsent by him, will not convert or save a single soul.

Though with adoring gratitude we have to acknowledge the partial awakening of the church from the slumber of ages; and the result of this awakening as shewn in the diffusion of the Gospel in a small degree to nearly every portion of the earth's dominions; still it is yet but the day of small things, in comparison of what may be expected, when special, earnest, persevering prayer, shall be made to Him throughout christendom for the Holy Spirit to convert, regenerate and save perishing souls. He himself has assured us on infallible testimony, that for this important work, "He will be enquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them."

Not many years ago, a call to prayer in behalf of Foreign Missions went forth from a band of Missionaries in the East Indies, which met with a response in many parts of Europe and America; and the result was an awakening in the Church from the torpor into which she had sunk. Missionaries were found in greater numbers to devote themselves to the work of the Lord, conversions in greater numbers were announced from the various agencies among the heathen,—the souls of believers were quickened anew to engage with more heart in this blessed work. It is to be observed also, that in the different periods of revivals in portions of the church, these periods have been preceded by earnest, continuous prayer for the work of God to be revived in the languishing souls of his people.

What is now proposed from this isolated corner of the church, (in distress for labourers like many other sections of the christian vineyard) is to invite all the christian agencies engaged in Foreign Missions to *special prayer*, during a certain time and at a certain period. For evoking the spirit of prayer from all Boards of Foreign Missions, Committees or Associations engaged in Foreign Mission work, it is proposed, that the **FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY QUARTER OF THE YEAR** beginning with the first Monday of January in each year, shall be the special time for these agencies to meet together for *special prayer* in behalf of Foreign Missions. And in order that prayer may be continuous on those days, when the locality on the earth in which each agency is found shall come opposite the sun in his meridian height, then, let that agency enquire in prayer to the Lord of the harvest, that he will call and send forth labourers into his harvest.

Let prayer be thus made from the utmost East, to the utmost point West, where agencies exist, and out of the twenty-four hours of the earth's revolution on its axis, it is probable that during sixteen hours of these days the cry of souls distressed for the condition of the benighted heathen, will be found ascending to the throne of the Eternal One, who has promised to his Son, "That he will give the heathen for his inheritance,