

love to souls, conjoined with a disposition to refer all labour to religious officials, as though the fact of ministerial appointment were intended as an exemption of ordinary Christians from responsibility. But this cannot be gravely pleaded as an excuse for neglect. All the teachings of our Lord and his Apostles are opposed to it. One text will suffice: See 1 Peter iv. 10, 11. The methods of administration to human needs, temporal and spiritual, are now so various, and so adapted to the talents and circumstances of all, that every servant of God may find something to do, and should not consider himself innocent if he neglects doing it. In places where the population is numerous the disinclination of the masses to the Gospel is commonly alleged as a great hindrance in the way of the Churches. Doubtless it is; but the Lord Jesus Christ is stronger than the devil, and Christians should learn to be "strong in the Lord and in the power of his might." In the exercise of compassion for the souls of men, and in the wise selection of means suited to plans and peculiarities, every Church should learn to evangelize its own district.

*Giving.* Wherever we go, we hear of *hard times*. The fact cannot be gain said. The times *are* hard. But the wall of Jerusalem was to be built, even "in troublous times." Christians are bound to consider not only what is *lost*, but what is *left*. Some are above the reach of the prevailing depression, and some are below it. The former can enjoy the luxury of benevolence more than ever: the latter will be thankful if they get "food and raiment." But whether we have much or little, we are only stewards for the Lord, not independent proprietors, and there are few to be found who cannot give more than they are in the habit of giving. John Howard's sayings are deserving of serious attention: "Our superfluities should be given up for the convenience of others; our conveniences should give place to the necessities of others; and even our necessities give way to the extremities of the poor." These are not the times for extravagance and waste; retrenchment and economy must be the order of the day; and when all Christians agree to spend their money, "as ever in their Great Taskmaster's eye," the cause of Christ will not suffer; retrenchment and economy will not begin *there*.

The Committee renew the resolution of former years—that the Churches be recommended to spend one day in the year in prayer and thanksgiving.

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