

encouraging by our influence and example every means employed for the diffusion of this spirit among others;—and the degree in which this will be expected of any one, will be in proportion to the position which he occupies in the church or in the world. Then, 3rd, there is the giving of pecuniary support.—and this will be an embodiment corresponding to the worldly means with which the man, possessing a Missionary spirit, is blessed. Then, 4th, there will be the embodiment of the Missionary effort. And here the Missionary of the cross, who goes forth consecrating himself entirely to the work, is the very highest embodiment of the Missionary spirit :—Not only the living embodiment of his own predominant disposition : but of the circle from which he has gone forth,—their progress and means. The fruits of his labours are regarded as the fruits indirectly, of this “display” of their Missionary spirit. To cultivate and display this Missionary spirit is the duty certainly of every believer. If a genuine disciple of the Lord Jesus he can scarcely help it. It is so much the genius of the gospel that it follows as a natural effect produced in the subject who is saved by grace.

The grand design of the gospel is the salvation of sinners, the holy principles implanted by it in the mind of the believer are in the same direction—they are not inactive—they cannot lie dormant—if not displayed there must be some pernicious counteracting causes at work—narrow minded selfishness—worldliness—partial unbelief, &c. But this does not modify the duty—that still remains, and with it we have at present to do.

What then constitutes duty ? Is it the command of authority ? Here then we have the highest authority ; and the most direct command—“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving ; withal praying also for us that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds ; that I may make it manifest as I ought to speak.” “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints, and for me that utterance may be given unto me that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.”

Does the example of those whom we are under obligation to copy, constitute an element of duty ? Then here certainly, there are the most authoritative examples—and especially in regard to Missionary work—Christ, in every respect—the Apostles—the early Christians.

Does gratitude form any part of an obligation to perform duty ? What does man possess, enjoy, hope for, equal to what he possesses, enjoys, and hopes for by the gospel ? What may this gratitude legitimately resolve itself into ? The Apostle answers 2nd Cor. v. 14–15. We are not our own—any thing we have is not our own. On the principle of gratitude we owe all to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. There is no better—no other way in which we can give it to God. The best of all is he is pleased to accept of it in this way,—and according as man