

eternity, without any knowledge of the awful discoveries that there burst on their astonished view!—without any preparation for the solemn transition! Oh! when shall the gospel be testified to all nations! when shall the zeal of christians wake all its dormant energies? When shall they hang the sated weapons of polemic theology on high, and clad in the armour of the living God, unite in one mighty phalanx, and go up and possess the land which the Lord their God hath given them, expelling thence the demons of superstition, and filling it with the peaceful triumphs of the Cross of Calvary!—Blessed be God, the attack upon the dominions of the Prince of darkness has commenced, but that it may be sustained with vigour, and crowned with victory, constant reinforcements of strength, and unwearable zeal, and perseverance are necessary. Amid such imperious calls to exertion, how guilty, how shameful is neutrality. Let us then rally round the standard of Immanuel, and go up to the help of the Lord—to the help of the Lord against the mighty. To this duty you are urged, not only by the endearment of brotherhood—by the love of Christ—by the voice of divine authority—but, I repeat it, by a consideration of your distinguished privileges. From England, now, as from an orb of glory, is emanating in every direction the light of salvation: but England was once involved in darkness, and full of the habitations of cruelty; and had it not been for the benevolent efforts of Christian Missionaries to diffuse the radiance of the gospel over that favoured isle, the superstitions and idolatries of the Druids and Saxons might to the present period have constituted all our religion. Shall we then monopolize the unsearchable riches of grace which indulgent heaven has poured into our lap? In these celestial mines, are there not resources of sufficient amplitude to supply the wants of a whole perishing world? Yes! and whether we share our spiritual affluence with the heathen, or not, God has pronounced that they shall be blessed. When we look abroad on the moral aspect of the world, and observe how little has been done, and how little is now doing, in comparison of what is necessary, to achieve a spiritual revolution as extended as the boundaries of the earth; and when we survey the many and mighty obstacles which oppose this high enterprise, we are almost ready to yield to discouragement. But when we ascend the mount of prophecy, on which the most brilliant rays of revelation reflect their lustre; how do all those difficulties vanish from the view, till they become indistinguishably blended with the monotony of the vale beneath! The cause of Missions, my brethren, rests upon tottering basis, nor is the destiny that awaits it contingent; for, while it invites the exertions of human agency, thereby conferring an honour upon man, of which angels might be emulous, it depends not upon an arm of flesh for the success of its operations, but is sustained by the high attributes, guarded by the auspicious providence, and invigorated by the renewing Spirit of God. Charged with the high and holy commission of ‘carrying the banners of the Cross triumphant round the globe,’ it will go on and prosper till,—

‘One song employs all nations, and all cry
Worthy the Lamb, for he was slain for us.
The dwellers in the vales, and on the rocks,
Shout to each other; and the mountain tops,
From distant mountains, catch the flying joy,—
Till nation after nation taught the strain,
Earth rolls the rapturous hosannah round.’

Among the means destined to subserve the accomplishment of this purpose of redeeming mercy, let it never be forgotten, that prayer, earnest, faithful, persevering prayer, occupies a distinguished place. The united efforts of all the Christians in the world could not turn one Sinner from Satan to God, without the concurring influences of the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore, with unceasing importunity, beseech this Divine Agent to move upon the chaos of the moral world; that from the discord of malevolent and conflicting passions, may be elicited the holy harmonies of universal amity and praise:—then shall the earth’s wide wilderness bloom ‘like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.’—(Isa. 51. 3.) ‘Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be his glorious name forever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen, and Amen.’