

writers or speakers are intent on maintaining a position somewhat shakey and indefensible, they are apt to exercise their logical faculties not overly plumb and square. What are the facts in this case? Simply, that our brother, in a former salute, stated there was no money between the eyes of brethren and our arguments. We responded that we did ask the contributions of the brethren; we called for larger and greater liberality than any new-born Society ever induced or obtained. This we stated, taking for granted that the missionary society, in its life-member bargains, purchases, and donatory operations, was fulfilling its functions flourishingly. It would be intolerably absurd to withhold food from a gentleman, and then blame him for being weak; and it would be equally unreasonable for brethren to object to a Society for not performing enough when prevented from doing its own legitimate business.

One thing more while we have the above expression of our brother before us. It is conceded that there are other disciples than the editor of the Christian Banner who stand opposed to the new missionary operations. We know not the character or plea of these opposers. If they use weapons against the missionary society for the purpose of shielding their pockets from a draft upon them, or hiding the poverty of their love to Jesus and his cause, we ask not to be ranked with them. But we do know more than a few of the most liberal and conscientious friends of the Saviour who, if requisite, will wage a life-war against these supernumerary ecclesiastic contrivances; and, therefore, we have reason to dread the result if this very large discretionary budget which creates and fosters a society be continuously maintained. Are we not all convinced,—all who calmly and impartially review the matter—with the history of the world wide open to view,—that such expedencies as brother Franklin is defending get stronger, grow bigger, and become more law-like with the weight of time? Let it not be affirmed that we cherish groundless fears. We are not easily alarmed. We belong not to the exciteable ranks. Who would have supposed, when the vigorous and courageous author of the Christian Baptist wrote that the primitive brethren dare not offer a cent or a prayer for a missionary society lest they should rob the church of its perfection,—who, at that time, would have been willing to risk a prophecy that in less than half a lifetime the avowed followers of these primitive brethren would ‘organize’ a missionary society? And if so essential a change has taken place, why, on the same principle, not conclude, with the promises be-