

that He would be pleased to send down arousing grace into the hearts of all His professing people, to awaken them to a due sense of what they owe, of working to Him, to themselves and to the world.

But let us return to ourselves as a section of the Christian church, and see what need there is for mutual stirring up to action. For the present we only intend to offer a few suggestions, hoping they will be received with candor, and "a right and charitable frame of mind."

I. There is certainly a loud call to us to give a helping hand in imparting the gospel to the heathen, and thus seeking to do our share in the work of foreign missions. It was not at all meant that the gospel should be kept to themselves by those to whom it has come. In its effects upon the recipients it should be like a stone cast into an expanse of water, producing where it falls one circle after another, larger and larger, till the whole area is in motion. Christ says unto those to whom He communicates His gospel "freely ye have received, freely give. It is His will that His word should "sound forth" from every church deserving the name, as it did from the Thessalonians, and indeed from all the primitive churches, so that in a short period of time the gospel was proclaimed far and wide. Every one of them was a missionary church, and sent out labourers into the Lord's vineyard, and if the work had continued to go on according as it was begun by them, long ago, through the blessing of God, Christ and His saving truth would have been made known to all nations. But, alas! a host of evils adverse to the Christianisation of the world soon crept into the church, and it is but of yesterday comparatively that the duty of carrying the gospel of the grace of God, bringing salvation wherever it comes to the dark places of the earth, has been felt not sufficiently however, but in some small measure.

It is surely high time that our church should earnestly bestir herself for the furtherance of this great and good cause. In respect of the number of her congregations, and the secular circumstances of her people, she is quite able to take a respectable share in the work. Other Presbyterian Churches are setting her an example, and, to use scriptural language, provoking her to go and do likewise. Her sister church in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, fewer in numbers and poorer in worldly things, has honourably got the start of her, having had, for several years, a mission in the South Sea Islands, which has already won a position of renown. We were stimulated at last Synod to conjoin our efforts with that mission, and to furnish at least one labourer, as a commencement, to help in blessing those coral isles with the Gospel of peace, an invaluable temporal boon to savage tribes, who were wont to massacre and devour each other, besides leading them to holiness and to heaven. Some small preparation for entering on the glorious enterprise has been mooted; but the lethargy needs to be thrown off decidedly, and the loins girded. Every congregation should be made to hear a voice saying to them, from the pulpit, and from this Magazine, "You are expected to do your duty in this important undertaking." It is to be hoped that when the time of Synod comes round again, there will be from all quarters satisfactory evidences of a readiness to contribute the required means, and of a determination to follow this up with united persevering prayer, that God may grant success, and give us the frequent pleasure of hearing enlivening accounts from the mission field.

II. We should not forget, but keep in lively remembrance, and still actively prosecute the immediate end for which we exist as a church. This is to diffuse throughout Canada what we believe to be sound scriptural Christianity, so far as God may honour us to that effect. Thanks be unto Him, we have been privileged to do something in the work, but not nearly so much as could have been wished. In about a quarter of a century we have got fifty ministers over the land, besides probationers; a number which, but for a variety of causes which shall not be specified at present, might have been doubled at least. Our missionaries came to the country, or have been trained in it, as *missionaries* for Canada, not as men just seeking to obtain a local habitation and support,