

to ourselves individually. But when we bestow a gift, it may bless others, yea thousands. Giving, too, is more in conformity with the whole system of God's government, and more in conformity with His own gracious character, who giveth unto all liberally and upbraideth not. All this holds good, not only of individuals but also of churches. It is for them a blessed privilege to give. The very act of giving may tend to make them more sensible of their obligations to their divine Lord and Master. When they give in faith of what God hath given them they may expect to receive still more abundantly from the great Head of the church. It should never then be looked upon as a loss for a church to send forth even her most gifted ministers when a door is opened to them to go abroad as missionaries. Dr. Duff might have occupied one of the most prominent places in the church with which he is connected in the parent country, and he would no doubt have been a great blessing to the church there, and to any congregation that might have had the privilege of enjoying his ministrations. But will any one say that his going abroad as a missionary has been a loss to the church? Has it not been a great positive gain? We believe that the sending out of Dr. Duff, and his devoted associates, has tended in a very high degree to the elevating of the religious tone, and to the deepening and widening of the missionary spirit in Scotland. So it has been in other churches. The sending forth even of some of the best men has not resulted in loss to the church from which they went forth, but has on the contrary brought a blessing. Let none grudge then the missionaries who are set apart for external service. The Lord is able to give us much more than these.

We are led to these thoughts by the circumstance, that now two of the ministers of the church have accepted the invitation of the Foreign Mission Committee, and are to go forth, one to Red River, and one to the regions beyond,—to British Columbia. While we sympathise with the congregations called upon to part with faithful and laborious pastors, we rejoice that the Canada Presbyterian Church is now to have a mission on the shore of the Pacific. We regard it as a token for good. We trust that the missionary spirit will be extensively cultivated amongst us, and that as we increase in numbers, and in internal strength, we shall increase also in the number of our missionaries abroad. In the meantime let us give our sympathy and our prayers in behalf of the brethren who are thus consecrating their services to the Lord in the missionary field. Let us as a church resolve to support them ungrudgingly in the work to which they are giving themselves, and let it be our earnest prayer that their going forth may be doubly blessed—blessed to those to whom they may have an opportunity of preaching the glad tidings of salvation in distant regions, and blessed to those whom they leave behind.

THE FARMER WHO WAS A FOOL.

LUKE XII., 13-21.

No. I.

This is commonly called the Parable of the Rich Fool. Its purpose is to set forth the sin and danger of covetousness; to portray the inner state of a worldly, earthly-minded man, and to shew the truly little that he has, though