

The Missionary Department of our Church has an equipment and record unsurpassed in this country. The outlook is hopeful. The missionary sentiment amongst our young people is largely in the ascendant. Unoccupied fields are waiting and perishing for the Gospel of Christ. Scores of well-trained young men and young women have volunteered for the mission field. How can they preach unless they be sent? The responsibility of sending them rests with the Church. We exhort you to take the cause of missions home to your hearts; pray fervently and importunately for the success of this great Gospel scheme. The Word of God and the history of the Church teach us that the whole basis of successful missionary work is to be found in believing, importunate prayer.

Almost all that has been said respecting our Missionary Department might be repeated of our Educational Work. Our educational institutions are evangelizing agencies. Here our young people are being trained to leaven the political and professional, social and religious life of the world with a pure and intelligent Christianity. From these institutions are being sent forth men and women qualified to govern and mould society after the pattern of true godliness. If possible, send your sons and daughters to our own institutions of learning. We commend to your sympathy and practical support our College and University.

Scarcely less essential to the integrity of our Church is the Superannuation Fund. The honorable provision made for the support of worn-out ministers and their families in the Methodist Church has for many years commended itself to our people and the public in general. The principle of assessment has been adopted as a means of distributing with equity the amount of income from our circuits necessary to meet the annual claims of our superannuates. We commend to you the interests of this fund as being a just claim on your liberality.

Of all our connexional departments, probably none is so familiar to our people as our Book and Publishing House. Through our weekly and monthly periodicals, and other forms of Christian literature, a strong and constant stream of Methodist doctrine and sentiment is being poured into our homes. The press has always been a most important ally of Methodism; never was it employed to better advantage than to day. For the very best and cheapest literature for the library, the Sunday School, the Church and the home we commend to you our Methodist Book and Publishing House.

The first form of society in the world was the family. In no dispensation has it been merged in the congregation and forgotten or lost. The family altar was the first altar on earth; the father acted as prophet, priest and king. No matter how well equipped and effective are our church services, they cannot countervail the necessity for family religious instruction and exercises. As Methodists, we are in a special sense indebted to domestic piety. In tracing Methodism to its fountain-head, it will appear that we are more indebted to Susannah Wesley than to Peter Böhler for the religious character of our founder. John Wesley was so remarkable "for the seriousness of his spirit and the general propriety of his behavior," that "at the age of eight years he was admitted to the Sacrament of the Lord's Table." The first religious duty of parents towards their children is their baptism; following this is the important work of preparing them to accept of Christ as their personal