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DOES A CHURCH LOSE BY GIVING UP MINISTERS FOR THE
MISSIONARY CAUSE.

There are some individuals who admit generally the duty of missionary work. They admit that it is right and necessary to send the Gospel to the heathen, and to pay respect to the command of the Saviour to preach the Gospel to every creature. But when the matter comes home to themselves, when it is proposed to take a minister from work in a settled charge, and send him forth as a messenger of salvation to those who are destitute of the means of grace, they see difficulties in the way. They argue that the man is too good and useful to lose,—that our own field is too wide and poorly supplied,—that we must attend to our own necessities before we provide for those of others. In short, while they professedly admit the duty they fail to recognise the blessed privilege of missionary effort. Hence we propose to say a word or two in answer to the question—“DOES A CHURCH LOSE BY SENDING FORTH SOME OF HER MINISTERS AS MISSIONARIES?”

We admit, first of all, that our own field in this land is to be viewed, in a great measure, as a wide mission field, which it should be the first duty of the church to attend to. We have no sympathy with that false feeling of sentimentality and romance which would exalt foreign missions at the expense of domestic. We admit, too, that the connection of a minister with a settled congregation is one not to be lightly interfered with. But after making all necessary allowances, we hold that the missionary work in regions external to ourselves, is not only an incumbent duty, but a great and blessed privilege; and that the church does not lose by surrendering some even of her best men to go forth as missionaries. The Lord Jesus himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” It would be easy to show that this is true with regard to individuals. It is, indeed, blessed to receive. It is pleasing to experience the emotion of gratitude. But there is a higher pleasure in giving. It exerts, too, a more expanding and elevating influence on the character. It develops the unselfish and generous feelings and affections of the soul. It brings the liberal and hearty giver within the range of many great and precious promises. It exerts a more extensive influence. When we receive a benefit it may be blessing