

of our application. Year after year the committee had to repeat at the meeting of Synod that no candidate for our Mission work had appeared. For six long years we were thus kept anxiously waiting. The expectations, which encouraged us to engage in this scheme, and our people to contribute so liberally, seemed as if doomed to bitter disappointment. On each successive year we felt this more and more. At the giving in of the last report, the feelings of the Committee were almost those of despondency. It appeared as if our gracious Lord frowned upon, and would not accept our offering. The work was certainly his own, and the enterprise in obedience to his command, and a willing people were led cheerfully to contribute,—and would the result be a failure? In the whole history of the church there is no instance of such a result. This fact, were it kept clearly in view, was sufficient to keep our hopes from sinking, but we had waited long and employed all the means we knew of, to obtain a labourer for our mission field, and the result was no candidate, nor any prospect of one. We all felt our position to be a painful one, and some were beginning to give way to thoughts, almost of regret, that we had taken up the scheme. After a long discussion regarding what had been done, and what had been neglected, and what further steps were possible; during which the fact was very clearly made manifest that the Synod was, at last, thoroughly in earnest; it was proposed to adjourn, as the hour was late, and resume the discussion on the following day. We adjourned, with minds perplexed and discouraged, little imagining that, in our midst there stood an individual in whose heart a process was being carried on, which would render our meeting, of next day, one which shall be remembered as among the most memorable in the history of our church.

It was, indeed, with feelings difficult to express, the Synod listened to the unexpected announcement from the Rev. John Goodwill, that he was willing to devote himself to the Foreign Mission field. As we looked at that beloved brother, trembling with emotion and in tears, and heard him say "I am willing to go, if you will accept my services," we felt that our gracious Master accepted our frail efforts, and had answered our prayers. It was, indeed, a solemn moment, and one which none of us shall ever forget, when the Moderator called on the Synod to unite in prayer and thanksgiving and in supplication for the brother, whose heart was moved by the Spirit of God, to offer himself for this arduous work. We have been, as a church, charged with the guilt of denying the headship of Christ, and we have been able to prove the charge to be false, but no reply from the ablest pen could be so satisfactory a refutation, as the proofs we had, as a Church court, of the gracious presence of our Divine Head at this memo-

orable meeting. We could truly express our feelings in the confident and exulting words, "The Lord hath been mindful of us, and He will bless us still."

Our dear brother, from a worldly point of view, has made a great and a painful sacrifice. He is about to leave his home and friends, and his large and attached congregation, to spend his years and his strength among a savage and a degraded people. But he has counted the cost, and he will go assured of the prayers and the support of every praying individual; and he will go too, with that promise in his hand, which never did and never can fail, "Lo! I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." This is sufficient, and he will find it so, amid every privation, and trial, and danger. With a firm hold of this he may confidently employ the language of David, "I will not fear though ten thousand rise up against me." Very unequal appeared the combat, when the weak stripling went, with only his sling in his hand, to meet the Philistine Goliath, but with the name of the Lord of Hosts around him, as his panoply, the victory was sure and the effort was easy. Girt with the same well-tested armour, and equally well assured of the same result, our missionary will go to meet and to subdue the enemies of our Lord. That he may be thus equipped for his work, let every true friend to the cause of Christ, pray earnestly in his behalf; and let every minister of our Church remember the injunction of the Synod, that a special prayer meeting be held once every month, to plead for the success of the Foreign Mission.

From the willingness to contribute during past years, while there was no immediate prospect of rendering our means available, the Synod has no doubt regarding the liberality which will be shown by our people now that we have engaged a qualified missionary. From all our pulpits due intimation will be given of the collection for this object, and every minister will explain and urge the necessity of giving, as God will enable all the friends and well-wishers of missionary work, and it is hoped this contribution will be regarded, not so much a duty, as a great and precious privilege. In proof of this the committee would express the wish that the miserable cent, and the shabbier half-cent, may be left at home on the day of this collection. It is a great privilege to be allowed to do something to spread abroad the blessings of Eternal love. It makes us fellow-workers with God himself. It secures a blessing to ourselves and to our families. In proportion to the efforts made to extend the blessings of the Gospel to our destitute brethren, will be the influence of these blessings in our own souls. Like the flowing stream the gospel of Christ must go forth. The stream must flow toward the ocean by a law which cannot be resisted: so the Gospel seeks to reach every dwelling of man. Attempt