

honest and honourable congregations will go on multiplying, blessing themselves and others, glorifying the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Presbyterian Church is the largest, the most influential, and, we may add, not the least wealthy and intelligent in the Lower Provinces. God has given us a name and a place in the front-ranks of his people. We state this fact that we may all serve God with more ardent zeal, and devote ourselves to Christ's cause with redoubled earnestness. If we prove selfish, narrow-minded, weak-hearted, God will reject us; we shall be left behind in the race; we shall shrivel up in the leanness of our souls till we become the last and most despised of the people. What we possess of influence, wealth, talent, must all be consecrated to Christ, laid under heavy tribute to His cause on earth. Though our strength were tenfold what it is, there is no room for boasting in the presence of God or of man. Our strength is utter weakness unless Christ be among us, unless He be formed in our hearts and His love influence our conduct.

The circumstances we have enumerated encourage us to urge again on all congregations the duty of contributing at once to our Home Mission funds. The call is still urgent. The cause is so good that none can be better. The Church has felt for several years the cramping influence of an ill filled treasury. We know that there is money enough in the pockets or within the power of our members; we know that their hearts are liberal, that they give cheerfully when they feel that it is their duty to do so. The difficulty is in making them *think*! More than half the battle is won when attention is secured to an object. Now we ask our Ministers, Elders, and the whole body of the people to turn their earnest attention to the wants and necessities of the Home Mission. Past liberality encourages us to hope great things.

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### HELP.

When we were utterly helpless, "lying in our blood," outcasts in Universe, fit only for everlasting burning, then God looked in

love on us and sent His Son to be our Helper. Though he was rich yet for our sakes he became poor that we through his poverty might become rich. From that unutterable abyss of weakness, degradation, helplessness, He called us, He healed us, He bade us live, and made us His own dear children.

And in every hour of trial and distress our cry goes up to His open ear. He hears our prayer, strengthens us, leads us safely on towards our eternal rest. When death comes with his chilling terrors, then we lift up our voices to the ever-helpful God, and He comes with open arms to receive us and take us beyond the shadow of death into the fulness of life and light. Christ is never, never slow to help and save. Often before we ask He answers. He anticipates our prayers: even as a mother knows and supplies the wants of her feeble infant.

In all this Christ has left us an example that we should follow His steps. Brethren, let us be helpful one to another in this our weary and dreary earthly pilgrimage. Christ expects this of us; He bids us do this to fulfil His will. The weak have need of the strong to aid them in many an hour of trouble or of want: but the strong have need of the weak to develop in their souls the grace, so Christ-like, so inexpressibly beautiful, of helpfulness. We all need each other. The temple cannot be reared without the small stones; the forest cannot live long without the tender sapling as well as the giant oak.

The rich should help the poor, and thus become rich in good works. The strong churches should help the weak, even as brothers and sisters, members of the same family assist each other. If Christ has done so much for me, what should I not do for my brother!

It was thus at the beginning. The first public collection to relieve public distress was made by Gentile converts at the instigation of Paul, for the poor saints that were in Jerusalem. The first hospital for the sick was reared by a Christian widow.—Christ loves to see His people helping the needy, feeding the hungry, sustaining the weak.

There are in our Church a considerable