

may have, which should make them imagine that they are indispensable to their native country—(laughter)—or make themselves or their friends grudge them to the foreign field, or warrant them to decline to entertain the question whether they should not devote themselves to labouring for the conversion of the heathen. But while first-class men are not exempted from the duty of entertaining this question, still it is not them alone who should be encouraged to enter the mission work. Any man possessed of good principles, good talents, and good sense may become, by God's grace and right improvement of his capacities and opportunities, a creditable and useful missionary to the heathen, and there, surely, is a considerable number of such persons amongst us in the different classes of young men to whom I have referred, who might have been expected to have furnished a fuller supply to the urgent demand which the Church has recently been making for more men to fill up the vacancies in the missionary field. I assume then that there are a considerable number of young men amongst us who are possessed of the fundamental qualifications for becoming useful missionaries, who ought therefore to have entertained the question whether they ought not to have devoted themselves to mission work; and some of whom, if this question had been entertained and prosecuted in a right spirit, might have been expected to have offered themselves to the Church to serve the Lord in this most righteous and most honourable department of his work.

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"I have only further to say, that after all the great work is, that we should go to the Lord of the harvest—that we should give Him no rest until He sends forth labourers into His harvest. There is scarcely any condition of things that could well be imagined to which the striking and impressive words of our Saviour may be regarded as more directly applicable; it is now most emphatically true that the harvest is plenty, and that the labourers are few. Our most immediate, urgent, and imperative duty is to pray that the Lord of the harvest may send forth labourers into his harvest. We are called upon to engage in this exercise individually and collectively. If the present discouraging condition in this respect should continue much longer, it may be the proper thing for the Church to appoint a special time of service on a special day for humiliation and prayer in connection with this very matter—for the purpose of humbling ourselves before God, and more earnestly and prayerfully beseeching him to send forth labourers to the harvest field. I would fain hope, with God's blessing attending the efforts made in various ways, in presenting the matter before the minds of our congregations, that our present distressing deficiency of supply may soon be well filled up with men well qualified to go forth and proclaim the tidings of great joy, to maintain the existing institutions, and embrace otherwise many important spheres of usefulness which God in His providence seems to be pointing to."

The Conference lasted nearly two days. A large Committee was appointed to co-operate with the Foreign Mission Committee. Dr. Candlish, in closing the proceedings, called the Conference "a great success" and hoped it would be a precedent for the future.

COLLECTIONS FOR 1862.

The following are the Schemes of the Synod for which collections are to be made, subscriptions gathered, and donations solicited every year:—

1. Home Missions.
2. Foreign Missions.
3. Ministerial Education.
4. Synod Fund.

These Schemes are so well understood in all their bearings that we need not expatiate now on their importance. The Church cannot flourish, nay, it can-