

which is to God a pleasing sacrifice. If, in a word, the state of each man, and of all men, by nature is one of spiritual death, then an agency equal to the stupendous task of raising the dead must be secured.

Oh, brethren, when you call to mind what we are taught respecting the deep, dense darkness in which humanity is shrouded; when you reflect upon the stubborn obduracy of the human heart; when you think of its utter indifference, nay, its inveterate hostility to God, to Christ, and to holiness; when you bring together thousands and millions of individuals, each of whom is by nature utterly opposed to the truth into compact masses such as nations, are slaves of particular systems of error; when you survey the world and find the vast majority of its inhabitants still poor blinded pagans; when you reflect upon the fact that a hundred and fifty millions of souls are subject to the Mahomedan delusion; when you find from seven to ten millions of Jews under the sway of an unbelief intensified by the habits and prejudices of eighteen hundred centuries; when you remember that the overwhelming majority of even those who call themselves Christians are held in bondage by Greek and Roman superstition, do you not feel keenly that the continually manifested presence, Almighty power, and infinite grace of the Holy Spirit are absolutely necessary to bring these teeming millions from darkness to light, and to translate them from the kingdom of Satan, into the kingdom of God's dear Son? As you look upon this wide, waste desert, do not the hopelessness of mere human powers, and your sense of the need of a Divine agency, prompt the utterance of the old prophet, "Upon the land of my people shall come up thorns and briers, until the Spirit be poured upon us from on high and the wilderness be made a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest." My friends, as you stand in this mighty valley and survey the ghastly wrecks of humanity once instinct with life, love, and activity; as you look upon these dead men's bones, blasted, bleached and dry; as you listen to the question, Can these dry

bones live? it is only when you believe in the mighty power and wondrous grace of the Eternal Spirit, that you will rise even to the position of the prophet and answer, "O Lord God, thou knowest."

Again, you will perceive that the presence, power and grace of the Spirit are the Church's hope in prosecuting Missions when you think of the feebleness of the instrumentality employed to achieve the salvation of the world. This instrumentality embraces truth, order, facilities, and men. Now take any of these by itself, or take them all together, and they are feeble, intensely feeble. Am I told that "truth is mighty and will prevail?" Address truth to angels and you will find your proverb verified; but address it to men and you will discover that, apart from the agency of the Spirit, truth, even God's truth, has no more power to save than the woodsman's axe to fell a tree without the woodsman's hand to wield it. Am I told that we have an ecclesiastical polity founded on the word of God, and that our facilities for the spread of the gospel are already great and daily increasing? Very true. So has the gallant vessel becalmed at sea a strong hull, stately spars, and spreading canvas, but she must be there a helpless thing, until the winds of heaven fill her sails and bear her across the mighty deep far away to her destined haven. Are we reminded of the number, talents, piety and enthusiasm of those who have quitted country, kindred, and father's house for a toilsome life among the heathen? Brethren, our missionaries are men, only men of like passions with ourselves. They are weak. They feel that they are weak. Indeed the better qualified they are for their work, the more deeply are they impressed with a sense of their own weakness. When our brother who is with us to-night thinks of the number of the poor Coolies of Trinidad; when he reflects upon their darkness, superstition, and sin; when he considers that the work which he has undertaken is no less a task than their spiritual illumination, emancipation, and complete salvation, I am sure that he will go to his work, as the great Apostle went to his,