

MR. MATHESON'S FAREWELL
ADDRESS.

[We have received copies of some of the addresses delivered at the Farewell Missionary meeting in Pictou. We do not think it necessary now to publish them entire. We however give Mr Matheson's.]—ED.

“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Such, christian friends is the sublime and comprehensive commission, under which the Apostles of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ went forth to proclaim to a lost and perishing world the glad tidings of salvation. Christianity contemplates the human family as in a state of utter helplessness and misery. Wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked is the humbling description, which the Bible gives of man in his fallen state. But while Christianity looks fairly at the deplorable condition of man, and surveys it in the extent of its degradation and misery, it is the glory of the gospel, that it reveals a remedy adapted to the wants of all. The command of the Author of our holy religion is to make known to every son and daughter of Adam, that Jesus Christ is able to save unto the very uttermost all that come unto God by him. In his name the heralds of the cross are directed to proclaim to every man that thirsteth &c. But were we to take and spread out before our view a map of the world what a vast extent of heathen lands would be unfolded, where as yet the inhabitants have never heard the glad tidings of salvation,—sitting in darkness and in the region and shadow of death. There they are without Christ, having no hope and without God in the world. They are suffering under the influence of a soul-destroying famine—“a famine not of bread nor a thirst of water, but of hearing the words of the Lord,” having none to lead them to the fountain of living waters, and to break to them the bread of life. But to us has the word of this great salvation been sent. To us the lines have fallen in pleasant places, in a land where we enjoy civil and religious liberty, and have access to all those ordinances, which have been instituted for the perfecting of all the Saints, for the edifying of the body of Christ, and have been as we hope by the instrumentality of the Gospel, called out of darkness into Gods marvellous light. And friends, has God thus distinguished us, by bestowing upon us the blessings of

the Gospel. If so does there not lie upon us a solemn obligation to do good and to communicate, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. To our sympathy here loudly does the condition of the perishing world appeal, and shall we forever close our ears against the importunate cry, “Come over and help us.” On those who enjoy the Gospel is it not a duty incumbent to send it to the ignorant and perishing. “Freely ye have received, freely give,” “Go ye into all the world &c.,” and does not gratitude to God for the favors which he has bestowed upon us require that we should obey it with cheerfulness, for “whoso hath this world's good and seeth his brother have need and shutteth his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth in that individual the love of God;” perhaps Fathers and Brethren, it may not be deemed amiss to mention some of the motives by which I was actuated in the selection of a Foreign field in preference to labouring at home. The cry from heathen lands has been long and loud and must be answered, therefore in enquiring what was duty I did not confer with flesh and blood. I did not institute the enquiry where will I enjoy the best health, where will I live the longest, where will I be in the possession of the largest amount of the enjoyments of life, but “Lord where wilt thou have me to go,” “Lord what wilt thou have me to do.” The comparative wants of the two fields, my own desires and God's providential dealings with me ever since I began to appreciate the blessings of the Gospel, seemed so direct my course far hence among the Gentiles. To me the question has always seemed a very important one, Can I do more for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom in a heathen land than I can at home, and believing that the ways and dealings of God did indeed point to a heathen land as the scene of my future labours, feeling this coming home as I did, when time after time your Board instituted the enquiry, “whom shall we send and who will go for us;” I was led with deep humility, and yet with cheerfulness to say, “Here am I send me.” And never since I came to the conclusion to go far hence among the Gentiles, has an emotion of regret crossed my mind;—but trusting that I arrived at that determination guided by that God who said to Moses of old “my presence shall go with thee &c.,” and who still says to his followers “I am thy