

in contact. All that they seek, then, to accompany them in effecting success, is the Holy Spirit—the power of the living God. They can but use the means placed at their disposal, while He, through this means, accomplishes the end. They sow the seed, but He makes it take root, spring up, and produce a rich crop of holiness to the Lord. With this accompaniment of the Holy Spirit, the word of God which they carry along with them becomes “quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Heb. iv. 12.) Think, then, my Christian brethren and friends, with devout meditation, and in a prayerful spirit, on this most momentous subject, which has now been but imperfectly set before you, for it is a subject worthy of the tongues of angels to proclaim and advocate with all the zeal and fluency which the highest order of them may possess, and arouse yourselves to most vigorous exertions in behalf of missionary work among the perishing heathen. Think of how much you yourself owe to the gospel of Christ, in all that relates to time and eternity, and what you owe to God who has given it to you, along with many other blessings you possess or hope to enjoy; and be not grudging in letting others of your fellowmen share with you in the Gospel feast. Be thankful to God that you are called upon to send the gospel to these benighted heathen, and that they are not called upon to send it to you, in their heathenish state,—and for this give God alone all the praise. Contrast your present state with theirs, and be assured that it is the power of the gospel alone which makes all the difference, you being in possession of the saving light of God’s truth, they being in the darkness of ignorance and superstition; you knowing the way of God and of holiness, they knowing only the ways and workings of the evil one; you enjoying all the usages and comforts of civilized life, they living in degradation, practicing immorality, in all its offensiveness and cruelty; you, hopeful expectants of heaven, through the merits and mediation of the Saviour, they having no knowledge of Him, nor of a future state of blessedness for man, but merely fitting themselves more and more, by their progress and perseverance in sin, to be brands fit only to be burned. (Heb. vi. 8.) Will you not all, then, in sweet charity and Christian benevolence, arise and bestir yourselves, in snatching even one of these perishing souls from the everlasting burning?

Let each of you feel that the conversion of the heathen to christianity is a special work which you, as a christian, are bound to perform to the glory of Him who has Himself called you out of darkness into the saving light of the gospel; and when each of you does this, a strong impetus, it is to be hoped, will be given to the good and godly cause. How, then, shall these poor heathen “call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Rom. x. 14.) The preacher has therefore to be found and sent, before they can hear and believe, and call on God as their God. He is the willing instrument placed by himself at God’s disposal to begin and carry on this evangelical work. True it is that none of you may be called upon to go in person, to preach the gospel to the heathen,—for, in order to this, much preparation in study is absolutely necessary, and to this you all might give very good reasons for your not going; but, although none of you might be disposed to serve God in this manner, yet there is another way that you can serve Him in this, and perhaps with more success and effect. You can all contribute more or less for the support of those who are both competent and willing to go with the gospel to heathen lands—for the maintenance of those who have given themselves to carry on this work of the Lord,—and your liberal support to them, in all time coming, I fondly hope, and most seriously and earnestly advise you, will be given. Let not the reflection that you are unable of yourselves to support the ordinances of grace among yourselves have the least