

a certain amount of effort, as what they will put forth, and think that when they have reached that point they may rest contented with what they have done or are doing. Let them reach the height at which they have aimed and ere long circumstances will be such as to necessitate a farther step in advance. If circumstances are otherwise with any church, we may be satisfied that there is something wrong with it, calling for great searchings of heart.

Even under ordinary circumstances then we would hold that in the work of subduing the world to Christ, progress is the church's duty, or as some would say, the *law* of her operations. "Speak unto the people that they go forward." But we do hold that our church in consequence of the Union is specially bound to enlarged efforts for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom. We have been permitted to heal one of the breaches of Zion and have celebrated a Union, on which in its progress and consummation we believe that the smiles of heaven have rested, we have raised over it loud jubilations, which have resounded we may say without exaggeration to the ends of the earth, and we have no doubt that our Union has been exercising an influence on behalf of that great object in other and older countries. Do these things involve no obligation to greater efforts than before? We have proclaimed that union is strength, and can we be satisfied with putting forth merely the same efforts, which the two bodies did in their separate state. Were the united body to do no more for the cause of Christ than the two bodies did previous to the union—could we point to nothing which we were doing for God's glory more than we were doing before—then we would have to confess with shame that owing to our unfaithfulness to our signal privileges, the union had in so far and in reference to this great and important end of the church's operations, proved a failure. When our Saviour prayed for his people "that they all might be one," it was "that the world might believe that thou hast sent me." Just in the degree then in which our Saviour's prayer in regard to the unity of his followers

is answered, the result must appear in its influence upon a world lying in wickedness. We hold then that in our peculiar position, we are constrained by gratitude to the great Head of the church, by a regard to our own character before the church and the world, to show as the result of our union, and as the evidence of that union being in part the answer to our Saviour's prayer, efforts for the promotion of God's glory in the world, surpassing, we should say, far surpassing what we had put forth in our separate state.

We may remark that where other unions have taken place, the result has been an increase of missionary effort, and that sometimes immediately. When the Associate and Associate Reformed Churches in the United States, united to form the United Presbyterian Church, at the first General Assembly after, they resolved to adopt two new and expensive missions, viz.: to North Africa and China, and for the latter they selected two missionaries before they separated. In the year of the Union of the Secession and Relief Churches in Scotland, the united body assumed the missions of the Scottish Missionary Society, and besides extending their missions which they were already maintaining, they have since from time to time entered upon new and costly missions, and with every extension of their efforts, the liberality of the church and the state of their funds have kept pace.

But in regard to our Foreign Missionary operations, as just remarked, we have now actually not as many labourers as just previous to the union. We do not however say that any blame is to be attached to the church on this account or that the fact is any reflection upon our missionary zeal, because it is well known that the present state of things is owing especially to the extraordinary events which befel our mission in the South Seas, and may therefore be regarded as merely temporary. Indeed when we consider the very peculiar nature of God's dispensations toward that mission—that five out of eight of our agents were struck down by death in about two years, we may well feel thankful that in a period which, considering the time required for