

in Heaven and on earth is placed in His hands, we cannot doubt that His blessing will prosper the means which we employ in obedience to His own certain command. This is enough to encourage every heart and to stimulate the zeal of all who can truly pray, "Thy Kingdom come," and are longing for the happy hour when the voice from Heaven shall proclaim, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever." We have entered on this work feebly and faintly, it is true, but it is a step onward to the help of the Lord against the mighty. We surely would not wish, and should we even wish it, we dare not draw back, nor rest satisfied and stand still, in the position which this step has given. If already we have felt that as a church of Christ we must not stand any longer idly looking on while His name is being dishonored and precious souls are being dragged into perdition, the feeling, if a real and sincere feeling, will lead to the earnest prayer that God may deepen and strengthen it, and so increase our sense of responsibility that we shall come to regard this work and its progress as one of the chief objects of our lives. While we would thank God for what we have already been enabled to do, it must be stated that throughout our congregations a great want of interest has been painfully manifest. In our last year's report of collections the name of more than one congregation failed to appear. Is it possible that within the bounds of our Synod there can be found any section, consisting of from 50 to 100 families, and among them large numbers who, year after year, have been seen taking their place at the Table of the Lord, whose hearts are so cold, aye, whose profession of love, made at that Table, is so entirely a falsehood, that not one of

their number could find it in his soul to give a shilling to aid our Mission? We will not believe this. We believe that, from some strange neglect, the opportunity to contribute was not given. It is hoped for, and so far as the true friends of Christ in such congregations are concerned, the hope *will* be realized, that this year the deficiency will be fully made up for. The man or the woman whose heart does not warmly respond to this call, is certainly where he or she should not be, when sitting at the feast which Christ ordained for those who love and labour for Him. We confidently anticipate, then, in the collections of this year, a return which will prove that it was not a grudging spirit, but the want of thought or opportunity, that caused the gap of which last year we had reason to be ashamed; and we as confidently hope that the congregations who did something, who did best, will feel it to be a privilege, as well as find it to be their duty, to advance largely on their liberality. Surely none of the real friends of Christ require to be told that it is a great privilege and the highest honour to be invited to take their place as fellow-workers with God. But, in contributing to forward the work of Missions, and giving from love to Christ and the desire to save immortal souls from death, as God, in his providence, gives the means, however little that may be, is as surely working with Him, as of sharing in the labours of the most renowned of His Ambassadors. The Lord of Glory condescends to tell the humblest of His followers that He will accept the labour of their hands. He asks for it, and gives the promise that He will remember and reward it. Myriads of glorious angels surround His Throne. He needs not our services, and yet He asks us to come to His help. It is in love. It is because He wishes to honor