

hands, and say to ourselves, it is no use, evil is increasing upon us—a flood of wickedness both at home and abroad is rushing down upon our heads which our feeble efforts can do little or nothing to avert. Not that the work is indeed great, but so are the means. Let us ask ourselves, have we used the means to the best of our ability? Can we say that we have used them with any merit deserving the name. Alas! no! We contribute much if the whole British and Colonial contributions to Foreign Missions were collected into one sum, whether it would amount to threepence a year to each individual. We are afraid that this moiety, insignificant as it is, would be far above the mark, when we consider that much, very much more of this little is worse than thrown away, the unproductive nature of a lukewarm faith, ought rather to wonder that the result would be so great. We give, and often with a grudge our feeble pittance,—so feeble that we cannot aggregate for missionary purposes bestowed by the greatest and most highly favored nation of the earth, barely amounts, it is estimated, to the sum given yearly—by the natives of a second class Chinese city in the form of oblation to their idols—for it has been stated by high authority, that something like £500,000 are yearly expended in the city of Canton for the purpose above alluded to—almost as much as some of our great cities can afford to throw away on that filthy abomination, tobacco, or that still greater abomination, ardent spirits. Though this in the day of small things, so small as the gospel is concerned, let us not come so rapidly to the conclusion, that what is so small is of no moment. *A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump*, and that leaven even now is slowly at work. Let each individual ask himself, am I doing my part of the duty? Am I helping my church to perform its share? Almost every religious newspaper or periodical we read tells us that this or that Church has done, or is doing, so much. Does our Church maintain a rank befitting its ability, its duty, and its position among the Churches of Christendom. Every one has its mission. There is that great cosmopolitan Society, the British and Foreign Bible Missionary Society, with an annual income of £60,000. Besides this, the Church of England is up and doing, and every year making

more rapid and earnest strides in the missionary cause. Her missionaries are now to be found in almost every portion of the globe. The Methodist is working nobly, with an organization which we would do well to imitate. The Baptist seeks to take his share in the glorious work. Our Presbyterian brethren are pressing onward in the race. The Church of Scotland takes her part, and each succeeding year, we rejoice to see, finds her stronger and more zealous in the work. *What are we doing?* We call ourselves a Christian Church; shall we abnegate one of the dearest and loftiest privileges belonging to the name—to lend our aid in having the Gospel preached to all nations. Let us not plead that we are few and feeble; let us remember the observation of our Saviour when the poor widow threw her mite into the treasury. We have, late in the day, indeed, but not too late, partially taken the field. Shall it be said that the Churches of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, are unable to maintain one missionary? We tell them that if they willed it, they could maintain twenty missionaries, and yet not feel the strain. We have commenced on a sufficiently small and cautious scale. May it be like the little rill, gradually expanding and deepening in its course, till it swell into the mighty river, watering the shores of many lands, blessing and being blessed. Let us recollect that we are instruments in God's hand; that our religious duties close not with ourselves; that a Church which is not a missionary Church is a dead Church, a withered and useless limb of that great body the Church of Christ, unsightly and injurious, neither yielding fruit nor affording shelter. Let us be careful that the case is not our own. We are upon our trial: may the trial be a triumph, and may each succeeding year find us stronger and more zealous in the mission field.

We trust that our Synods at their approaching meetings, will take up the subject with an earnestness equal to its importance, and that such action will be taken as will infuse new life and a new ambition into the hearts of our people, so that theirs also may be the proud privilege of co-operating in the most glorious spiritual work that can engage the powers or the prayers of Christians—the cause of missions all over the world.