

singular scene occurred at one of the General Assemblies about that time. It was in Glasgow in the venerable cathedral, which has been used as a Church since the Reformation. Deeply affected by the state of the Heathen world, some pious Ministers brought forward a proposal to send out Missionaries, who might preach the Gospel in these benighted lands. The plan was so new to many that they began immediately to object to it. One Minister in particular made an eloquent speech in opposition to this new scheme. And what do you think was his chief argument? A strange one truly! Civilization, he said, must precede the Gospel. Paul did not go to the Heathen in India or China, but went to Jerusalem, to Ephesus, to Corinth, to Athens, and lastly to Rome itself, all of them great cities, and of which the inhabitants were far advanced in knowledge of the arts and sciences. After a short pause one of the Fathers of the Church arose, one whose name is now a household word among the people of Scotland: "Moderator," said he, "reach me that Bible;" and, having received it, he turned to the last chapter of Acts, where, if you do the same, you will find it written, "and the barbarous people showed us no little kindness." From this text, showing, as it does, how Paul must have preached among the savage islanders at Melita, the venerable champion of Missions in our Church turned to others bearing upon the subject, and triumphantly silenced his opponents.

How different is such a state of feeling from that now so happily existing in the Church of Scotland, a Church so active in the Missionary work, and, we rejoice to believe, distinguished for piety and Christian usefulness. Christ's command is *to preach the Gospel to every creature*, and we believe that no Church and no individual can enjoy to the full the blessing of God while this injunction is neglected. And so will we find it in every land that the Church, which does most to preach the Gospel to the Heathen, will be highly favoured at home, while the Church, which neglects the plain command of its Lord and Master, will be apt to languish under the withdrawal of His favour.

But, dear young friends, Christ's command was addressed to you. He requires you also to preach the Gospel. How is this to be done? By praying to God that He may bless the labours of those who are now preaching in India and other Heathen lands, by contributing, as you may be able, to aid some missionary object; and, lastly, by often thinking and reading of these poor deluded people, all of whom have souls to be lost or saved, so that you may gain a deeper interest in their salvation. We hope, we earnestly pray, dear children, that many from among those who may read this little paper will, ere long, devote