

The absence of a spirit of Christian liberality among the professed friends of the Saviour, and the possession of one directly the reverse are operating powerfully and constantly against the dearest interests of the kingdom with which God has identified his own glory and the present and eternal happiness of men. Why is it that so many Churches and congregations in this Province are destitute of the stated preaching of the Word,—the bread of life? Is it because there are no pecuniary means to sustain the servants of God which would supply this lack? No one acquainted with the temporal circumstances of the Churches comprising the Association, and who have any knowledge of the value of divine truth and the souls of men can come to such a conclusion. For, were there such a spirit of Christian liberality in exercise as the word of God enjoins and primitive believers exhibited, and were the much needed means systematically collected, according to the scriptural rule “as the Lord hath prospered,” and judiciously appropriated, there would be enough to supply abundantly every just demand. All our Sabbath Schools could be furnished with efficient Libraries; and our Colporteurs travelling through the length and breadth of the Province, could supply every family with the Heaven incited Volume, and other books of wholesome instruction. Our Seminary at Fredericton, filled with knowledge-seeking students, would demand public attention and esteem; and from it would go forth year after year, young men whose mental faculties would be prepared to elevate the moral character of their countrymen and unite them together by the strongest ties. We should have, at least, five times the number of Missionaries that we now have in the foreign field: and our contributions would be increasing the fund appropriated to supply the Lamp of Life where a mysterious and divine Providence is every day opening an easier way of access.

We meet in our annual Associations, and deliberate on the means to be employed for advancing the interests of our Holy Religion. And, while looking upon the moral and intellectual harvest, spread invitingly before us, while thinking of its value and liability to perish and be forever lost, our hearts become deeply affected and our emotions warmly excited; and with our spirits grasping in warm desire for the salvation of sinners, we lay our plans for gaining so God-honouring and soul-inspiring an object. But pecuniary aid is indispensably necessary in carrying our schemes into effective operation; so that, with the blessing of Heaven, they may accomplish the object for which they were designed. If, then, we are destitute of a spirit of Christian liberality, which is so inseparably connected with the progress of the cause of Christ, no benefit can accrue from our stated meetings for deliberating and forming plans which cannot be carried into effect for want of means. Indeed it would seem almost as well to discontinue our deliberations, since they are devoted to mere waste building. It were almost useless to offer any more prayers for the promotion of the glory of God in the salvation of sinners, since they appear little more than useless and uncharitable petitions. Without such a demonstration of our love to God and the souls of men as is exemplified in the spirit of liberality, all our prayers and exhortations are no better than a solemn mockery.