

rebuke given one of them by Dr. Lorimer. He was boasting of his recent conversion to the truth, when the doctor asked him if he was a member of the church. "Well, no," was the reply; "the dying thief never joined the church, and he went to heaven." "But," said the doctor, "you support the cause of missions?" "No," was the reply; "the dying thief never contributed to missions, and he went to heaven." "Yes," said the witty doctor, "but he was a dying thief, and you are a living one."

No less interest in the "regions beyond," no less contributed to give them the gospel, and withal a humble cliency unto the Lord for the true missionary spirit which will send us out in prayer, and sympathy, and gifts, throbbing with His love for the millions who perish in darkness.

There is no reason why one field should be neglected in the interests of the other. They are mutually related. They are to each other what the tributaries are to the broad stream on which floats the commerce of nations. Yet I am not sure that this mutual relationship of the two fields is always fully realized. If it was, there would be a clearer knowledge of the extent and need of the home field, a more equal distribution of the funds of the church, and an enthusiasm equal to that we now find in connection with foreign work. For proof of the fact that there is lack of definite knowledge of the field, and want of enthusiasm, I refer you to the average congregation; and for proof of the unequal distribution of funds, to the annual financial returns.

After a somewhat careful survey of the field, and a close perusal of what has been written by those whom I know would not falsely picture the situation, I am persuaded that the "holding our own" policy must be changed for one more worthy of the trust God has committed to our church. The time has come when a more intelligent grasp of the actual state and requirements of the home field must be taken, and a more vigorous policy pursued. Failure now to seize the opportunities which the splendid field opened out at our door affords will result in loss which years of effort and thousands of treasury will not redeem. A few more men sent at once to needy fields, and a few more thousands of dollars judiciously spent, will result in the speedy development of a strong cause, self-supporting and missionary in spirit and gifts. The withholding of this adequate support will