

In a few weeks, if not in a few days, I expect as your representative, to leave your shores to teach the heathen the knowledge of the Gospel. Your children have, in conjunction with others, furnished us with a vessel to carry us hence to the far off islands of the South Sea. The voyage before us is long, the seas to be traversed stormy, and many a dark and dreary night are we to be tossed on the billows. Your prayers, I am sure, will not fail to accompany us. Early and late, as you approach the throne of grace, whether as individuals or as families, you shall not fail to remember those whom you have sent to do the work of the Lord for you, in a foreign land. Our ship has your confidence, and I believe is worthy of it. But let me caution you not to idolize our vessel. If you do, your idolatry over her, like as the lightning-rod tempts that terrific fire out of its course, may tempt God's judgment to fall upon her, and her helpless inmates to be swallowed alive in a watery grave. Cursed is he that trusteth in an arm of flesh. Let us be very grateful because God is enabling us to do so much in his cause as we do. Let us not boast of it. It is yet our "day of small things."

*We could* do much more to advance the interests of Christ in the world than we now do. Our children do now what our church could not face fifteen years ago. Fifteen years hence, whoever lives to see it, may find many of our congregations, each supporting its foreign missionary. We are now *beginning* to attend to a duty too long neglected. Let us be ashamed of that long neglect. Let us be grateful, that God in his mercy, is now stirring us up to our duty. Let us cheerfully, humbly and prayerfully address ourselves to it, taking care that our left hand shall not know what our right hand doeth.

Consecrate your sons and daughters to this work for which Christ came from heaven and died. Strive to enlist their sympathies early in this the best of causes. Strive to impress upon them from their mother's knee, that the advancement of God's glory, and the salvation of sinners, is the noblest cause for which a man can live, and for which, if need be, he can die.

Consecrate *willingly* of your substance to Christ's cause. If there were any truth in the Popish doctrine of Purgatory, the money spent to take men's souls out of its fiery, gloomy caverns, were a most laudable appropriation of means. There is no truth in that doctrine. Yet a better than it is true. Men can go to heaven without passing thro' a purgatory of fire. Let our money be expended in the interests of the blessed gospel, by which this glorious result is achieved—by which men's souls are brought directly to heaven.

And dear friends, give the cause of Christ your prayers. All of us need to be greatly stirred up in this. The cause of Christ does not, alas, lie so near our hearts as it ought! O for the same mind that was in Christ! O to yearn over the lost souls of men, as He did! O to live to the glory of the Father as He did! Pray for the outpouring of the Spirit on your ministers at home, and your missionaries abroad. Pray that the Spirit open the hard hearts of gospel hearers at home, and especially that He open the dark hearts of the heathen in the islands whither you send the gospel. Paul may plant, Apollos may water; God giveth the increase. Let this be deeply engraved on our hearts. Without our using the proper instrumentality we cannot look for the blessing. But when we have done all we can, let us bear in mind that nothing is accomplished unless the Spirit of God is poured out to work in the hearts of men, the work of faith with power. When Elijah had built the altar, laid on the victim, dug the trench and filled it with water, had the work stopped here, he had accomplished nothing. His triumph over his enemies was in the descent of the fire, consuming victim, altar, and finally licking up the water around.—Thus it is with us. We have accomplished nothing unless God pour out his Spirit and bring souls into a saving knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. This Spirit is given in answer to prayer, yea, is specially promised in answer to prayer: How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Ghost to them that ask Him. Let us *agrace* then, to ask this thing humbly and importunately of God. Let *each one* of us wrestle