

acted upon, the Gospel had never reached Scotland. Had no Christian church ever sent out and supported missionaries to the heathen, the boundaries of the Church of Christ must have been very limited, even to the present day; and if no more are sent out, must here remain stationary, or rather begin to contract, till it disappear altogether from the earth. In any of these cases the promises of God must fail; the animating prospect set before Christ, to encourage him to suffer and die, must never be realised, and the best boon of heaven for removing the wretchedness of a sinful and suffering world must remain hid in a corner, and all through the criminal indifference of those to whose hands the sacred deposit has been intrusted.

Did not you say you were preaching the Gospel to your own people, and instructing them faithfully? I ask then, do not you allow that your labours are needful for their spiritual welfare? This you must allow, unless you admit that it is all wasted money that is given for your support. But supposing a number of your people should be thrust out of their farms, or a way of obtaining a subsistence at home, and be compelled to seek this in a foreign land, would they not still be in want of such a spiritual instructor? And supposing they should be so poor for a number of years after emigrating, that they could not pay for one, would no obligation lie upon you to use every effort in your power to have one provided for them? Would the mere circumstance of government making no provision for their spiritual wants, their poverty, or their removal to another part of his Majesty's dominions, render their souls of no value, and not worth caring for? If you believe in this manner, you must also believe that the preaching of the Gospel is not for the saving of the soul, but a mere political scheme for the peace and order of society,—a kind of plaything to amuse, or a bugbear