

inspiration impels them. We want in fine, a practice in harmony with our belief. We want those who are not their own, but bought with the blood of Christ, to consecrate time, energies, property, sons and daughters, all that they have and all that they are, to that great cause for which their Lord laid down his life.

The claims of Missions are coming home to us as they have never done before. We have prayed that the fields might be opened, and now that God has answered our prayers we cannot refuse to take possession of them. Don't be mistaken; the time is near when some of us will have to double and treble our subscriptions, and some to multiply them even tenfold. We shall do this simply because we are not hypocrites. We do really believe in this work. We would not give even at our present rate if we did not. And because we believe, if one shall but stand up, and, with a prophet's voice, summon us to our duty, showing us the magnitude of the work, and appealing to us by the love of Christ, we shall not fail to respond in suitable manner to the appeal. Those noble instances of self-denial which appear now and again in our missionary reports are the heralds of what is coming. They are prophecies which secure their own fulfilment. Exceptional now, they will become the rule by-and-by; for Christ's people cannot hang back when there are those who show them how they ought to advance. There will be a higher style of contribution than we have ever dreamed of before long. The rich will bring in

thousands his hoarded or his quickly accumulating gold, and the poor his slowly gathered pence; both of them in the same spirit of lofty consecration, gladly parting with what they have, until the Mission treasury shall be filled to overflowing, and the means of support shall never be lacking for the earnest well-qualified, God-ordained men who, in the fervour of their zeal, shall come and offer themselves for this work, saying, "Here am I; send me, send me!"

This will come sooner or later. Oh, that it may come—that a beginning may be made to day! Will not some of those to whom God has given the means of largely helping on this greater work, now respond to his call? Is it not for this mainly He has entrusted to your surplus property beyond your legitimate wants? Can you think of any other way in which it will be so well employed? You may indulge yourselves, of course—take expensive pleasure trips; improve your style of living; set up a carriage and pair, with riding horses to boot; hang pictures on your walls stock your cellar with the costliest wines; build a splendred residence, larger than you can occupy, as a means of perpetuating your name and fame; lay up, not merely for the needs of your family, as duty requires, but for their aggrandisement, although you may thereby help to ruin them by providing them with the means of self-indulgence, and leaving them no motive for exertion. You may do all these things, and when the light of eternity shall be shed on the transactions of time, the money de-