

resident ministers as that no part of the service but the address and a short prayer just before it fell to me. The large attendance at all these services, especially those held in the evenings, has been a matter of congratulation and surprise. At Paisley, the large town hall, erected as a memorial to George Clark, Esq., of spool-cotton-thread fame, and holding 2,500, was literally packed; and at Glasgow, St. Andrews, holding from five thousand to six thousand, was similarly crowded. Instead of coming across the sea to kindle a missionary revival, the flame was found already burning, and needing only the fuel of facts, and the fanning of the breath of the Spirit of God, to become a consuming fire. Could all this intelligent and aroused enthusiasm be effectually *applied to action*, the whole machinery of missions would move with greatly increased rapidity and efficiency.

We think we see some signs of greatly increased *giving*. These meetings have not been with immediate reference to raising money, and no collections have been taken except for current local expenses. But from time to time voluntary offerings have been sent in to me, by those whose hearts the Lord has touched, and some of them have been very significant, because the fruit of evident self-sacrifice. In some instances the facts attending such gifts have become known to me. One lady sold a bracelet and sent the proceeds to be applied to missions. One young man took off a solid gold vest chain, and another a diamond scarf-ring, and enclosed them to me. Others sent the price of a pair of kid gloves, or a box of cigars, or a concert ticket, or a package of Christmas cards, or various other gratifications and indulgences foregone for the sake of perishing. What would be the result were only John Howard's maxim followed, that our "luxuries should give way to the conveniences of the poor; our conveniences to their necessities; and even our necessities to their extremities!" The nakedness of the indigent world might be clothed from superfluous trimmings of the vain. That will be a new era and epoch in missions, when even our *luxuries* are sacrificed for the sake of supplying the gospel to the world.

With this last day of the year we enter upon the closing decade of this century. Dr. George Smith, of Edinburgh, the accomplished biographer of Cary, Duff and Wilson, reckons the first century of modern missions from 1788. He divides the century into three periods: First, the period of preparation, when the ground was being broken up and made ready for seed, from 1788 to 1838. Secondly, the period of sowing, when the seed was being scattered, from 1838 to

1858. Thirdly, the period of ingathering, when the harvest began, from 1858 till now. I have often thought of a somewhat similar division into periods of seven years each: 1. From 1788 to 1837, seven periods of seven years, the times of organization when the great missionary agencies were forming. 2. The times of aggressive activity, when the Church was pushing rapidly forward into new fields, three periods of seven years, from 1837 to 1858. And 3. The times of realization of results, when both aggressive movement and great success marked missions, the plowman and reaper going side by side.

However this be, we are now in the first years of a second century of modern missions. Never since Christ arose from the dead has there been at once such magnificent opportunity and such inspiring encouragement. No previous generation has had such facilities and appliances for giving the gospel to mankind as have we. Divine Providence has furnished us weapons for our warfare such as men in apostolic ages never imagined. The marvelous fables of the Arabian Nights are eclipsed by the realities of printing press, steam engine, electric telegraph, postal system, and all the other helps which are now challenging the church to use air, earth and water in her great mission to the race of man. No man can show a sensible reason why within the next ten years the Word of God should not be published throughout the world. Thirty millions of Protestant disciples can evangelize the world if each one will become responsible for *fifty* other souls. If one missionary will go to the field out of every 300 Protestant church members, we shall have 100,000 missionaries in the foreign work, besides native helpers that now outnumber the missionary band five to one. If every such church member could be led to consecrate habitually and systematically to missions, *five cents a day*, it would yield the enormous sum of about 550,000,000 dollars yearly, or one and a half million dollars a day! Think what could be done in evangelizing the world if there were a band of 100,000 missionaries sent out by Christian churches, with the grand sum of \$550,000,000 a year to provide for their support!

This decade ought to be the most glorious of all history in the progress of the gospel. But there must be new giving and new living, more men and women sent to the front and more money and means furnished to the work. Dr. McAll writes that for sheer lack of money he has had to close *thirteen* of his stations, at a time when every door is open and every demand is for expansion rather than retrenchment. The Church of God does not respond to the providence of God as she