

you. But we have no choice; and if apology were needed, surely the urgency of the case supplies a sufficient one. Moreover, we do not ask anything of those who have nothing to give. "It is required according to what a man hath." But this is required in times of *adversity*, as well as of prosperity. No amount of pressure can absolve from this obligation. General, besides, as the present pressure is, there are some of you who feel it comparatively little. Do *ye* your duty, and your increased liberality will make up the "lack of service" of those by whom it is more severely felt. Be thankful that you are in a position to "stand in the breach" at such a time, and remember that soon circumstances may change, and the abundance of others be required as a supply for "*your* lack of service." Some of you may feel it to be your duty rather to *diminish* than increase your Missionary contributions at present. If so, by all means do it, but remember that all the other *items* of your expenditure must be curtailed at the same time and in a similar ratio. So long as you keep up any of these on the old scale, you have neither plea nor apology for reducing the others. This were to "rob God" to pay your fellow men, and pamper yourselves—a species of robbery which is not the less criminal that it is very common. Be conscientious,

then, in giving what you can *still* afford to the cause of Christ. It will be as acceptable to Him as when the sum was larger, and it will bring down an ampler blessing on what is left for your own use; for it is as true as God has said it, "there is that giveth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." Times must be very bad, indeed, with those of you who have *nothing at all to spare for Christ's cause*—not even the widow's farthing from your week's earnings. In that case, we don't ask it; but if you can afford one farthing a week, we shall accept it most thankfully, and even that will aid us materially in the present emergency. A farthing a week! Why, this is one shilling and a penny a year, and *that is more than the members of our Church are now giving, on an average, for her Missions*. That would produce £340 annually, whereas the entire fund raised for the Synod's Missions in 1855 was only £298. "We speak this to your shame." We speak it also for your encouragement—to shew how the very smallest sums, when given by large numbers, swell up; and also to bespeak a favorable reception for the scheme now to be submitted for securing the self-sustentation of the Church, which proceeds on this principle.

II. SYNOD'S SCHEME TO MEET THE CASE.

Let all the congregations in which a Missionary Society does not already exist, hold a meeting for organizing one. Let a Committee of Management be appointed, with a staff of Collectors; and all experience proves that the young ladies are the most zealous and efficient in this department of duty. Let the Committee divide the congregation into a convenient number of districts—not too large—and let two Collectors be appointed to each—an arrangement which, besides other advantages, provides that the subscriptions shall be taken up by the one, should the other be prevented by any necessary cause from doing so. Let the subscriptions be taken up *monthly*, if possible, but not less frequently than *once a quarter*. In country districts once a quarter may, perhaps, be considered often enough; but in all towns and villages a monthly visit can involve no hardship, and will be found the most productive. To secure regularity, let intimation be made

from the pulpit on the previous Sabbath, of the time when the visit of the Collectors may be expected; and let the money be handed in to the Treasurer at the first Missionary prayer meeting after it has been collected, when the amount may be announced for the encouragement of those present.

These details may seem minute; but more depends on such minute details than many think. *System* is quite as important as liberality. For want of it, many congregations that might render material assistance to the cause, have hitherto done very little. So far back as 1843 this scheme was first recommended. In 1849 the recommendation was renewed in these more peremptory terms: "that the Synod take order that the existing recommendation be carried into effect, viz., to have a Missionary Society formed in every congregation, either in place of, or in addition to, the annual collection." It is now drawing towards the close of 1858, and no Missionary Society has yet