

from such a place into the regions beyond. But consider a little. Perhaps our church was the pioneer of the Gospel in the place, and the fault of dividing and over-churching it is due to the sectarian zeal of others; should we always give way before such aggressions? False doctrine may be preached, and an unscriptural and soul-deceiving discipline prevail, in the other communions, though good men are not wanting in them,—and are such matters of no importance? The cause may have been hallowed by the prayers and labours of some very dear to Christ—does He not sometimes say, “Destroy it not, for a blessing is in it?” If we go into the regions beyond, rival denominations will follow us, yes, within twelve months, to places neglected for years. Oh this sectarianism, labouring for “our” cause, as if identical with the Lord’s cause, what a curse it is, and how it deceives not a few good men! We have our share of it, as well as others, I doubt not, in the sight of God. Now, in such circumstances as the above, missionary committees are often perplexed to know what Christ would have them do—it may seem but a choice of evils that is left them. But there would be little difficulty in most cases, if every Congregational minister and every Congregational church were worthy of the vocation wherewith they are called. If the question—“What do ye more than others?” cannot be satisfactorily answered, we may well pause. Names and professions do little or nothing for Christ. But a truly faithful pastor, and a living church, is always safe to help.

MISSIONARY AGGRESSIVENESS.

It has long been felt as utterly a fault amongst us, that we are not—in the right sense—sufficiently *aggressive* in our style of operations. We try to “keep what we’ve got,” but we do not “get what we can.” There was a most animated discussion on this topic at our meeting for 1857, in Montreal, terminating in a glowing resolution. *Did any thing else come of it?* Is it possible, that Independency has been so understood, as to make us selfish? Because we cannot authoritatively interfere with others, have we collapsed into indifference? “We have not so learned Christ.” “We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.” The planting and nurturing of other churches is a part of every church’s work, as well as the sustentation of their own life; and many are weak and sickly among us, and many sleep, because they have not taken enough out-door exercise. What should be done in this direction, and how, are questions we should do well to consider. Are we not too much bound up to society-action? Why should not a church send out its own pastor on a missionary tour of a month or two, through destitute places, supplying the pulpit themselves? I do not know any one that would be jealous of well directed efforts of this kind. Are the larger churches self-denying and liberal enough for this? Or must they always hear the Gospel from that one man, and have all his labours to themselves? I trust this is not their spirit.

BRITISH COLUMBIAN MISSION.

In speaking of the missionary work, it would be unpardonable not to notice the presence of the brother under appointment to British Columbia, though he is not officially connected with us, but is in direct relation to the Colonial Missionary Society. But he was bred, if not born, among us, and wherever he goes, we shall have a brother’s heart towards him. We must soon furnish him a “fellow labourer and companion in tribulation,” for the Master’s plan was to “send them two and two before his face.” It will do us good to have our sympathies thus extended, to feel that

“No pent-up ‘Canada’ contracts our powers,
But the whole boundless continent is ours.”

And we must not only feel, and talk, and pray, but *do* something for that mission. What say you to the idea of Canada building the first Congregational Church in British Columbia? Shall not Brother Clarke go out with that pledge on our parts? We shall watch with constant interest the progress of that mission; and shall be right glad to hear that our brother and his associates have avoided those mistakes and dangers which he so feelingly depicted from the place I now occupy, three years ago.