

THE HOME MISSIONARY.

Go,.....PREACH the GOSPEL.....Mark xvi. 15.
How shall they PREACH except they be SENT ?....Rom. x. 15.

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NO. 1.

AN ADDRESS, ADAPTED TO THE MONTHLY CONCERT FOR PRAYER.

[Furnished by the Rev. Gideon Blackburn, D. D., President of the College in Danville, Kentucky.]

HAVING met to pray for the prosperity of the church of Christ, we ought to realize her *importance*, as viewed by Jehovah, and as felt from her influence upon earth. To establish the kingdom of grace upon earth, has been the design of God from eternity. In that kingdom he has resolved to embody all that is valuable to man; to copy out his own character, lay up his law, establish the principles and give life to the maxims, which will eventually bind the world in peace—remove misery and death—demolish the empire of the prince of darkness—check his influence as with a chain, and create a new heaven and a new earth, wherein shall dwell righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Though thousands of years have rolled by, since the development of this purpose, though darkness has covered the earth, and gross darkness the people, yet “the counsel of the Lord standeth sure, and the thoughts of his heart to all generations.” His eternal purpose, while it designates the end to be obtained, embraces, also, the necessary means for its accomplishment. Among these is the *earnest, importunate, believing, and united* prayer, of the friends of Jesus Christ; and he has made this *indispensably* necessary to the effectuating of his purpose. Zion must travail, in order to her enlargement. According to the plan of God, souls cannot be saved without the prayers of the church: he therefore makes his people willing in the day of his power. To excite their *desire*, he makes the pious feel their own necessities and dependence; to engage their *importunity*, he spreads before them the wickedness, the wants, and the danger of a dying world; to fix their *faith*, he has given his promise in his holy word, evidenced his faithfulness in his providence, and added his oath for confirmation; so that they may come boldly to plead with a God who cannot lie, and believingly place before him the petition, dictated by his own Spirit, as the necessary means to move him to accomplish his own purpose. To *unite* their feelings, though they are scattered over the whole earth, he has erected a common throne, appointed a common petition for every Christian, wherever situated, and so formed their nature, that by using a common symbol, the distance of space may be forgotten; and by coming to a common object of love, they may all feel the union of soul which constitutes heaven. To the attainment of this common object, this day of monthly concert has been set apart. In relation to it one feeling ought to bind all the parts of our globe. The inhabitants of every continent, island, and sea, should be bound together by the *holy desire* for the coming of the kingdom of Christ.

To *animate* the hope, and *warm* the hearts of all who long for the prosperity of Zion, he has given such *signs of the times* as cannot be mistaken, in proof of his determination soon to make Zion a praise in the whole earth. The church is coming up out of the wilderness, leaning on her beloved. Her stones and her dust are becoming precious. The desert is beginning to blossom. The witnesses

after being slain, are reviving. The tenth horn has been broken off the beast. The angel with the everlasting Gospel is in flight through the midst of Heaven. Greece, which was the third part of the Roman empire, is freed from her oppression, after three hundred and ninety-one years; and multitudes of the Turkish empire, under the metaphor of the waters of the river Euphrates, are drying up; and thereby the way of the Jews, the kings of the east, is preparing for their return to their ancient inheritance. The red dragon is cast out, and has great wrath because his time is short; a spirit of frenzy is seizing the world, predicted under the metaphor of frogs, to prepare all who are not genuine Christians for the *great battle* of God Almighty. Error and delusion are rapidly marshalling their forces for destruction, while truth is rising, public opinion is combining, and the Holy Ghost is enlisting soldiers to be marshalled under Christ, in the last campaign. The sickle is put into the harvest, and in every quarter of the world the harvest is *already* begun. The eye may now pass with delight over Africa, and see the star of the East gilding her mountains and chasing the darkness from her islands. From the top of Asian Hemia, look downwards along the meandering streams, over millions beginning to awake into life. The morning sun sheds its rays on China and reflects on Japan; but with increasing strength exhales a *gracious odour* from Ceylon. The mountains of Armenia, and the valley of Euphrates, are near the margin of twilight; while the scattered race of Abraham begin to shake themselves from the sleep of eighteen centuries, and turn their longing eyes to the hill of Moria, and the mountains of Palestine. Europe seems struggling to break the fetters of ignorance and superstition, and assert her freedom from arbitrary domination and papal idolatry and error. Chimborazo's lofty summit, which in former times was a beacon to direct the ambitious in their search of wealth, seems now to scatter rays of light, to guide the missionary of the cross in his search for *precious jewels*, with which to build the New-Jerusalem, the city of the living God. Montezuma's palace is calling for the light of the Bible, to dispel the gloom of papal oppression; and tawny tribes of aborigines are taking niches, and are standing as pillars in the church of Christ; while the song of salvation, gliding over the smooth surface of the Pacific, from the Sandwich to the Harvey isles, is swelled by the chorus of natives on the way to glory. The press, the bible, the tract, and the living members of the church, are all employed to accomplish the work of evangelizing the world, for which we now unite to pray.

On this day let every party feeling be forgotten, in the holy emulation to build up Zion: distinctions of sect, country, climate, and colour, should all be merged in the holy feeling, expressed by the prayer, "thy kingdom come." Local interests, civil distinctions, and family and personal feelings, may occupy the mind at other times; but *now*, meeting our fellow Christians from every continent and island on the globe, and by the appointment of the same time, having the same object; the coming of the kingdom of Christ, suggested to each individual, our petitions should be held on the common object, and not be distracted by lesser concerns, however important. If the *holy desire* for the prosperity of Christ's kingdom kindle on the same day in the hearts of near twenty millions, and from those the united petition rise before the throne of God, perfumed with the blood of Christ, with what zeal should it inspire every soul to do something to hasten the march of that cause which lies near the heart of the eternal God; has employed the agency of angels for thousands of years; has supported the existence of the world; will embody its best interests to eternity, and is to be built up by the prayers and activity of men.

Dear brethren, are our hearts alive to this cause? Have we assembled under a sense of its importance, and the necessity of our humble prayers for its consummation? Do our hearts bleed with sorrow when we look over the waste places of Zion? Do we sensibly feel our insufficiency to carry on this work? Have we our eye on that Holy Spirit, who has promised to raise the dead? Do we feel a confidence in the promise of God, that he will give the Spirit to his children who ask him: that Spirit who will enlighten the understanding and convert the heart? Have we brought our petitions forward, resolved to give God no rest, until he make Zion a praise in the whole earth? Then will all pray. If the speaker should not use all the arguments we wish, the throne is open to us all. Jesus will note the secret whisper, for he is *here*—he is present with *all*; the distance of the globe is no removal from the *heart* of our Redeemer, “who is God over all, blessed for ever, and upholding all things by the word of his power.” The prayers of the four quarters of the globe meet at his throne, and centre in his heart. His design is to make his church a unit. Their love to him brings them to his bosom, as to the heart of his kingdom, while he reciprocates with the most distant members of his body by his Holy Spirit, who, dwelling in them, dictates their petitions, which become the certain means of extending and building up his kingdom. United to Christ, the church will shed forth the light of truth, “clear as the sun,” exhibit a character “fair as the moon,” and united in the prayer, “thy kingdom come,” will be to Satan and the enemies of the cross, “terrible as an army with banners.” Let then the prayer roll round the globe, the sound be heard on the mountain, echo in the deep valley, pass up every river to its source, rise from every island, fill the gilded palace, and whisper from every cottage, and the collecting energy concentrating in the *monthly concert*, unite the pious feelings of all the holy over the whole earth, and combine their vigorous exertions; and let all believingly cry, “**THY KINGDOM COME,**”

AMERICAN HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

CORRESPONDENCE.

APPLICATIONS FOR AID, AND NOTICES OF AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

MICHIGAN TERRITORY.

We learn with satisfaction that the population of Michigan is fast increasing, and that its prospects in other respects are highly encouraging. Several places within the bounds of that territory have been aided by this society in the support of ministers, whose labours have been blessed. But the labourers are few, and its rising congregations, like those of other new states and territories, need the assistance of their brethren, in the older states, and are looking to them, through the A. H. M. S. both for a supply of faithful ministers, and aid in their support.

We would recommend especially the village of Monroe, on the river Raisin, the capital of Monroe county, as presenting at this time an interesting and important field of labour for a devoted minister of Christ. It is well situated for trade, and contains an active population of between 3 and 400. [See Home Miss. vol. i. p. 11.] The Rev J. McIlvaine visited it in the autumn of 1827, under the patronage of this society, and laboured there several months with encouraging success, but left it about a year since,

being called to another field of labour. Through him we have received a communication from a member of the little church there, dated March 19, 1829, from which we extract the following, with the hope that some faithful man may be induced to offer his services to go, and attempt, with the blessing of God, to strengthen the things which remain and are ready to die.

“I have written you in reference to the destitute state of our church, and urging our application, through you, to the Home Miss. Society for relief. Since you left us we have been destitute indeed; all our supplies united have not exceeded five or six Sabbaths. The sacrament of the Lord’s supper was dispensed last Sabbath, for the first time since you left us, and that without any regular preparation service; so that nothing like concert or harmony prevailed, and I fear that it was not a very profitable communion season. Our meet-