

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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AN ADDRESS,

ADAPTED TO THE MONTHLY CONCERT FOR PRAYER.

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Permit me, Christian Brethren, to call your attention to the *connexion which exists between the cause of Foreign and Domestic Missions*; and to the happy effects which will flow from a due consideration of this subject.

1. These two interesting departments in the Church of Christ are, of necessity, committed to the particular administration of different agents, and are supported by different voluntary associations; yet in their grand object are perfectly *one*; are pervaded, sustained, and carried forward by the *same spirit*; in the use of substantially the *same means*; and with the same great results.

1. *The object is one.*—The field opened before the servants of Christ is *the world*. One company of labourers may be placed *here*:—another, *there*: but all are at work in obedience to the command, and subserving the interests of one great Lord and Master, who hath purchased the Heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession, He says, “GO; PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE:” and they who truly obey, go whither he directs; intending as far as their obedience can effect it, that his purpose of love shall be fulfilled. Their object is *to evangelize the world*. These reapers carry *different rows*, but they mean that *the whole field shall be reaped, and the grain be gathered into the garner of their Lord*.

2. *The same spirit animates all who go as Jesus bids.*—It is a spirit of love to God and love to man. Selfish considerations belong not to the motives which urge to this enterprise. Desire of ease, of wealth, of worldly honor, of literary distinction and learned leisure, gives way before the overpowering influence of christian love. Whether the Missionary goes to build up the waste-places of his own country, or to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth, he goes to gloryfy God, in the salvation of men; he goes to spread the light which shines on him and communicate the joy that fills his heart.

3. *True Missionaries employ, every where, substantially the same means.*—They preach the facts of the Gospel, the truth as it is in Jesus:—*that truth which when cordially received, makes men real christians*. The word of God, by which men are born again. [1 Pet. i. 23.]

4. Going forth under this high impulse, to accomplish the same great object, in the use of the same means, they do under God *produce the same effects*. The eyes of men are opened and they are turned “from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God.” They are made partakers of that “holiness, *without which no man shall see the Lord*,” and *with which, no man shall be cast off from his presence, and from the glory of his power*. They are delivered into the mould of the gospel; taught to worship the *same God*; believe in the *same Saviour*: cherish the *same hope*: walk by the *same rule*, onward and upward to the same Heaven. A Greenlander converted by the preaching of a *Moravian*;

a *Hottentot* brought to the knowledge of the truth by a pious *Lutheran*; a *Hindoo*, conducted to the feet of Jesus, by an *Episcopalian*, or a *Baptist*, or an *English* or *American Congregationalist*, and a *Sandwich Islander* imbued with the faith of the gospel by a *Presbyterian*, all form substantially the same character, for all are made *holy*. Nor is this to be wondered at, when all have received, and relied on the *same facts* of the gospel, and been regenerated by the same Spirit.

II. The cause of missions must be sustained by the *men* and *money* of the church, voluntarily and heartily consecrated to the service and glory of God.—But even to this moment, there is a great deficiency in both these classes of instrumentality. Often, *very often*, the Directors of Missionary operations, when an importunate cry reaches them from some region of darkness and death, turn every way and call for a helper, but no one answers, “Here am I, send me.”—And often too, when one has been found ready to go, the means have not been at hand to send him.

In this state of things, it may be supposed that vigorous efforts to promote Domestic Missions will cripple the resources of the Foreign Missionary cause; and that sending men and money to foreign stations, may injure domestic operations. This might be the case if these two enterprises were opposed to each other.—But they are not; they are one: the same in spirit and in aim; and whatever is done for the one is done also for the other. Labors of love performed, and contributions of money made for the benefit of the heathen, have awakened from their slumbers, the charities of christians for their perishing countrymen; so that Domestic Missions have been most liberally supported by those who have done most to send the gospel to distant lands. On the other hand successful Missionary operations at home, have a direct tendency to increase the means of carrying on the cause of Foreign Missions. This will appear manifest when we consider,

That there is no power in Missionary Societies, nor in the church to command the charities of the christian public. Having stated the condition of the country and of the world, they can do no more than to select the best men to be obtained for the service, and send them to their proper place of action; to receive what any may be disposed to bestow, and appropriate it according to the wishes of the donors; and then pray for the Divine blessing on these labours of love, and appropriations of property. But when the call is made for men and money, who will answer it besides the real friends of Christ? The number of these is comparatively small. Every new revival produces additions to this number. New friends are gained:—old ones are made more zealous and faithful. Should twenty thousand, of such as will be saved, be added to the Church this year, there will be just so many more to care for the interests of Christ's kingdom, and to co-operate in building up the walls of Zion. Should the addition be doubled during the next year, it will be but to double the number, who will aid in the great work of sending the blessings of the gospel through the whole earth.

But God not only employs the contributions and labors of his people to sustain and advance his cause.—He makes great use also of *sanctified public opinion*; as indeed of all the means which exist of exerting a moral influence. There is a wonderful adaptation, not only of religion itself, but of the measures by which it is promoted, to the whole nature of man. Wherever there is a powerful work of grace, there public opinion sustains the cause of missions, foreign as well as domestic, and its adversaries are ashamed. Let such a work go through the whole land, let all feel the worth of the soul, and the preciousness of the Saviour—and no tongue will utter a whisper against this cause; no heart will be hardened; no hand will be closed.

There is then, an intimate connexion between domestic and foreign missions. The cause is one : and when we meet to hold this Monthly Concert of prayer, we may, with undivided hearts, embrace the whole, with all the varied and important interests of this great enterprize of love. Let us now offer our united supplications to the Father of mercies, on behalf of men abroad, and men at home—for missionaries in our cities and country places—for those who are penetrating the forests of the West, or visiting the plantations of the South;—for the men who have gone to the waiting isles of the sea to proclaim the law of Jehovah—for those who are causing the joyful sound to be heard, in Greece, in Palestine, in Africa, in Oriental Asia ; and wherever else christian charity has carried the blessings of salvation. Let our thoughts and affections run over the whole world, and embrace the whole family of man ; and let us in the strong exercise of faith and love bring and present them all before the Father of mercies, at the throne of his grace.—We will pray for the peace of Jerusalem. O Zion ! may all who love thee prosper—and let grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied to all who call on the name of the Lord ; *both their Lord and ours !*

Brethren ! this unity of spirit, purpose, interest and effort, may well awaken in your bosoms the most delightful feelings. This is a season for the exercise of true christian friendship ; and fraternal love towards the whole household of faith ; and for the enjoyment of communion with the universal church.

In effect, all who are engaged in this monthly concert desire the same things, oppose the same things. “ And this is firm friendship.”

Now this expansion of feeling and communion of spirit are well suited to produce excellent effects on the church, and on the world.

1. When the true spirit of Christian benevolence awakens up, and the condition of men “ without God and without hope” is set before our eyes, we cannot be satisfied, if our instrumentality is not employed in communicating the blessings of salvation to those who are ready to perish. At this monthly concert, we come up to a mount of vision. On the one side we see, the goodly tents of Jacob, and we rejoice that our lot is cast with those, whom Jehovah has delighted to bless. On the other side we see, in the wideness of its extent, the land which is yet to be possessed. We know that in the Divine purpose it is all given to the Redeemer, it is his inheritance, and he will possess it. We know too, that he will honor his chosen people, in the age fast approaching, by making them instruments for the accomplishment of his decree. And while we contemplate the scenes displayed in the great *panorama* of prophecy, we are ready to call one to another, and say “ let us rise up now and take possession of the good land, and let none be faint hearted, for the Lord of hosts is with us ; and the power of the Most high will be upon us.” No, we cannot rest in peace, unless in our places, we are doing something for the good of our country, for the salvation of the world.

2. Deep feelings of this kind will prepare us to work together with those who are engaged in the same cause. It is when we are cold and worldly minded, that the adversary excites party spirit and envy, and sows jealousies and divisions among the people of God. And alas, the church, and the interests of souls have suffered incalculable injury from these evils. When will they be banished from among us ? This I know is a very trite subject, but it is impossible to value too highly the importance, among all who love the truth, of united counsels and efforts. At all times they are important, but especially in this age, and *above all* in this nation where the church stands alone, and the moral power of public

opinion is greater than any where in the world. The cause of God is advancing. The enemy sees it: he is alarmed: he is rousing himself up to greater opposition. We may be sure that he will not let this great country be wrested from his hands, without a violent struggle. There is even now an urgent call made, for all the strength, and all the wisdom of the church. We must not permit the adversary to come on us in all his force, while we are disunited in spirit and effort. Cherish then, brethren, the feelings which belong to the monthly concert. And may all who name the name of Christ be thoroughly knit together in love; be of one heart and of one mind, and go up together to the help of the Lord—to the help of the Lord against the mighty. Amen.

American Home Missionary Society.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FIELDS OF PROMISE AND APPLICATIONS FOR AID.

INTERESTING FROM LOUISIANA.

The facts contained in the following communications, we doubt not will be regarded with surprise, as well as deep interest, by many of our readers. They address the sympathies of every christian, while it would seem that their appeal to *Candidates for the Ministry*, must be irresistible. It is truly a subject of wonder, that in the largest and most flourishing portion of the State of Louisiana, that in the parish of *Ibberville*, whose settlement was commenced 130 years ago, and that on the borders of the Mississippi, where the population exhibits almost the denseness and wealth of a continued village, for more than one hundred miles above the city of New-Orleans, there is no stated preaching by any protestant denomination of christians—none in the English language!—Not because there is any lack of pecuniary means.—The inhabitants are not poor as in the newly settled states further north. Their wealth is ample and increasing. Nor is it for a want of a willingness among the people to sustain the institutions of the Gospel.—There are multitudes within the limits referred to, of native Americans, who, allured by the facilities of worldly gain, have removed thither from all parts of the United States. These have learned, by their loss, to value highly the ordinances of christianity, while many of the French population, we are told speak the English language, and are willing to aid in the support of Protestant worship.

The following application, under date of May 25, 1828, and signed by forty of the inhabitants of the Parishes named, has lately come to hand.

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

To the Am. Home Miss. Society.

We, the inhabitants undersigned, of the State of Louisiana, and Parishes of Ascension and Ibberville, take the liberty to state the condition of this section of country to your charitable Society. With the exception of one Catholic minister in each, we have not a minister of the Gospel in our parishes. (A parish in Louisiana, is much the same as a county in the old states.)

From Baton Rouge to New-Orleans, a distance of one hundred and twenty miles, all of which is a thick settled country, the Word of God is not preached in the English language; and we believe, never has been preached on the Sabbath, and with very few exceptions, never on other days of the week. Very many of the inhabitants are Americans, consequently are not Roman Catholics; many others not strenuous.

Multitudes here are destitute of the ordinances of Christ. The sick and dying have no minister to pray for them, none to attend funeral ceremonies.

We see, and have seen for many years, like a mighty torrent rushing over us, the desolation in which our country will evidently soon be, if we neglect and do not enjoy the blessing of a preached Gospel.

It is our sincere wish and desire, and at present our only hope, that you will send us a Missionary; one capable to teach us the truths of the Gospel, zealous in the things of religion; one who may do honor to his profession, and one whose labors we pray the Lord may bless. Such a minister would be welcomed, and provisions made for his support; and we trust, through the blessing of God, that societies and churches may soon be formed here, and the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom advanced.

The bearer of the above application, a respectable inhabitant of the Parish of Ibberville, has favored us with a personal interview. He is a native of Connecticut, and though not a professor of religion, our knowledge of his character inspires the fullest confidence in the correctness of his statements, while a residence of eight years in Louisiana, has afforded him sufficient opportunity to know and feel the condition of that State. His representations of the state of society, the facilities now afforded for the exertion of a most useful religious influence, and the readiness of the people to welcome the labors of zealous and devoted ministers, are such that we have been induced earnestly to enquire, *who will go for us?* And we