

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.

[Furnished by Leonard Woods, D. D. Professor of Theology in the Seminary at Andover, Mass.]

To Christians, collected at the Monthly Concert, or retired for secret duties, and about to engage in prayer for the destitute and perishing.

DEAR BRETHREN—

Suffer me to address a few thoughts to you in reference to the sacred and delightful duty before you. Your prospect of obtaining a gracious answer from God, and bringing down blessings upon those for whom you pray, will be very much in proportion to the purity and strength of your benevolent and pious feelings. It is the unalterable appointment of heaven, that intense, fervent prayer shall avail much. Let your hearts then be impressed with the guilt and wretchedness of those, who are far from the kingdom of heaven. Dwell upon those considerations, which are adapted to excite strong desires for their salvation. Be familiar with those views, which led the Apostle Paul to say, "My heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they may be saved;" those views which have, in all ages, imparted an unutterable earnestness to the intercessions, which eminent Saints have offered up for the souls of men. I cannot now touch upon even a considerable part of the considerations which are suited to kindle devout affections. I shall limit myself chiefly to one general view of the subject before you, and that view, I trust, will not be uninteresting or unprofitable.

For the purpose of moving the children of Israel to compassion and kindness towards *strangers*, God tells them to remember that *they* had been strangers. "Ye shall not oppress a stranger, for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt." The remembrance of their unhappy condition in Egypt was evidently suited to produce feelings of pity and kindness towards those, who were in a similar condition. On this general principle, I shall now address myself to you, in behalf of the multitudes who are living without God, in the dark and destitute places of the earth.

It is a truth, brethren, which should reach your inmost heart, that all those who inhabit those regions of moral darkness, have immortal souls, as precious as yours; souls possessed of the same powers of thought, and feeling, and action, with yours, and the same capacity for endless improvement and happiness; souls, in comparison with which the whole world is of small value.

They are also in the same state of probation with you. If *you* are every day, and hour, forming characters for eternity; so are *they*. If *you* are shortly to languish and die, and your state of trial to close; it is so with *them*. And if the end of life, and the end of probation, and the judgment of the great day, are events of serious import to *you*, they are equally so to *them*.

And is it so, brethren, that those who are possessed of immortal souls, like your own, and who are thus rapidly passing on to the end of life, and to the final judgment, are destitute of the only means of bringing life to a peaceful end,

LETTER FROM THE REV. DR. MILLER,
to the Corresponding Secretary.

We cannot deny our readers a participation in the pleasure and encouragement which we have derived from the following sentiments, coming, as we know they do, warm from the heart of one who has long looked on the field, which is now white unto the harvest. They are from the pen of the Rev. Dr. Miller, of Princeton, under date of May 6, 1828. The letter from which we extract them was designed as an apology and an expression of regret for his unavoidable absence from the late anniversary of this "invaluable Society," from which he was detained by ill health.

It appears to me, dear brother, that the cause of Missions, at the present day, assumes an aspect which forbids any one who claims to be a friend of Christ, to be either idle or lukewarm. Yet if I were asked as to what evidence of christian character the great mass of professors of religion, at this hour, are most strikingly defective, I think I should be compelled to answer—"In active zeal for extending the Redeemer's kingdom." When we reflect that a gift to man the Gospel of Jesus Christ is; how precious above all price; how indispensable to the temporal and eternal well-being of men; when we recollect the solemn charge which the ascending Saviour left with his church, to carry this Gospel to every creature; when we remember that a share of the obligation to obey this command, lies not only on every minister of the Gospel, but also on every christian; and when we inquire, what proportion of the professing people of God appear to take any deep heart-felt interest in this subject; the conclusion is most humbling. O, sir, if professing christians, duly recollected that the degree in which the *spirit of Missions*, reigns in any heart, does actually graduate the reign of *piety* in that heart,—how many who are now confident respecting their state towards God, would be constrained to abandon their hope!

But I believe there is a special obligation on this subject resting on *Ministers of the Gospel*. An obligation the weight of which ought to make them deeply solemn, nay, to tremble, every day that they live. And if we have reason to mourn over the delinquency of the great mass of those who claim to belong to the church of God, we have, perhaps I may venture to say, still more reason to mourn that there is not a greater amount of ardent, active zeal for evangelizing the world, among those who are "set" for the defence and the spread of the Gospel; who are placed as "watchmen on the walls of Zion."—*Theirs* is the great task to inform the minds, to stimulate the efforts, to direct the plans, and to lead on the marches of "the Lord's host" to conquest and to glory. And I am verily persuaded that if all the ministers of the Gospel in the United States, who call themselves "evangelical," were, at this time, thoroughly roused to a

sense of their obligations, and completely engaged in the zealous persevering performance of their duty, we should see all our churches, in a little while, rising as one man, and resolving to give themselves no rest until Gospel ordinances were established, in every part of our national territory. I repeat it, sir, I am verily persuaded that, if the *proper spirit* in reference to this subject were now reigning and burning in the bosoms of the great body of our *ministers*, the work would be speedily and gloriously accomplished.

When I call to mind, my dear brother, what great things ardent, persevering men have accomplished, in times past, in enterprises far less worthy of zealous effort than those in which we profess to be engaged, I am sometimes almost ashamed to recollect that my brethren and myself bear the name of "ambassadors of Christ." Think for a moment what scenes occurred more than seven centuries ago, on the plains of *Clermont* in *France*, when "Peter the Hermit" is said to have addressed an assembly of more than three hundred thousand persons, and to have roused them, by his fanatical eloquence, to that wonderful point of excitement which prepared them to enter with enthusiasm on the *Crusades*! I have often asked myself—and am again constrained to ask myself, with peculiar emphasis, while I write this letter—Did that ignorant fanatic, by the fire of his misguided zeal, electrify Europe? Did he, by going from town to town, and urging his plea with vehement and untiring earnestness, persuade millions, ecclesiastics as well as laymen, to devote their time, their talents, their property, and even their lives to an insane project? And shall those who call our churches to a rational, and an infinitely glorious service—"not to destroy men's lives, but to save them"—not to corrupt or degrade their fellow men, but to promote their temporal and eternal happiness; shall they labour in vain—plead in vain—and be scarcely able to excite one feeling of generous enthusiasm in the noblest of all causes, in the bosom of more than one in fifty of those whom they address?—shall we not soon witness a feeling, and hear a voice breaking forth on every side, something similar to that which, you remember, on the occasion referred to, rent the air—"Let us march and plant the cross on the territory which belongs to Christ! God wills it! God wills it!" With how much more propriety may we adopt this language! "There is yet much land to be possessed." Let us march and plant the cross upon it! May we not say, Jehovah the Saviour wills it? I trust it will be seen that he *does* intend to accomplish much in this holy enterprise by the men of the present generation.

But what is the object at which we ought to aim? It is manifest that we ought to set for ourselves no less a task than COMPLETELY EVANGELIZING THIS WHOLE NATION.—While foreign missions, far from being abandoned or diminished, ought to be more and

more *extended* every year; at the same time every hand ought to be lifted, every heart to beat, and every pulpit to resound, in behalf of **DOMESTIC MISSIONS**. For carrying on this cause with ardent and increasing zeal, every *minister* ought to consider all his powers as put in requisition; every *theological student* ought to regard himself as a consecrated agent, preparing to act with all his energy; every *Christian* ought to hold himself and all he has as pledged; and our *children*, from the earliest dawn of moral feeling, ought to be taught to lisp the importance and the duty of urging forward this hallowed and glorious cause. Thus ought we to proceed—never ceasing to strive, and plead, and pray;—every year, if possible, doubling our exertions;—until we shall see a Bible in every house; a Sabbath School in every little district; and a pious minister of the gospel in every neighbourhood in which a sufficient number of souls are found to form a decent congregation.

It has often been observed, that when God is about to accomplish great things for the church or the world, he commonly raises up one or more distinguished individuals, who consecrate their time, their talents, their substance, in a peculiar manner, to the great work which absorbs their whole souls. Shall we not speedily see some “angels of mer-

cy”—if I may be allowed the expression, raised up for this noble, Godlike consecration? Shall we not see another *Luther*, or rather a *number of Luthers*, arise, to “make war on the seat” of ignorance and sin, and to put to shame the timidity and indolence of preceding ministers? Shall not a band of evangelical *Howards* come forth to explore the dominions of darkness, and corruption, and misery, to *proclaim liberty to the captives*, and *the opening of the prison to them that are bound*? Shall not a new and hallowed race of *rich men* arise, who shall manifest that they really believe the Master’s words, when he said, *It is more blessed to give than to receive*? Who shall testify, that, of all modes of employing property, they cordially prefer that which devotes it to Christ? Who shall show that they prize above all other pleasures, the pleasure of contributing to make a generation of immortal beings, with their children, and their children’s children, wise, and holy, and happy? When, O when shall that day arrive? *Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly, even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

Praying that grace, mercy, and peace may be multiplied to you, and to the Society which you represent, I am, very cordially, your friend and brother in Christ.

SAMUEL MILLER.

ANNIVERSARY. ADDRESSES.

We regret to state that we have not been able to procure a copy of the Address of the Hon. Mr. Sherman for publication in the present number of the *Missionary*, and hope it will not be denied us for a future number.

ADDRESS

Of the Rev. Luther G. Bingham, of Marietta, Ohio, in support of the following resolution:

Resolved, That devout thanksgiving is due to the Great Head of the Church for his signal blessing on the efforts of the Society, both in the conversion of souls and the impulse which it has already given to the work of Home Missions in the United States.

In support of the resolution which has now been read, I need say only a few words.—There is joy in heaven, said our blessed Saviour, over one sinner that repenteth. The conversion of a *single* soul is an event which fills all heaven with acclamations of praise. The news spreads from company to company, and from rank to rank, till every harp of Paradise is struck to sweeter notes of praise, and every voice mingles in the loud hosanna!

And can we hear it announced to us this evening, sir, as we have done in your report, that not less than 1300 souls have been numbered among the subjects of renewing grace, as the results of the efforts of this Society the past year, and not feel most deeply how much cause we have for devout thanksgiving to the Great Head of the Church for his signal blessings on all our labors. We have cause for gratitude, not

only in the immediate and blessed effects which have been already realized, but also because we believe these effects will be the causes of other effects still more glorious and happy. Among these, you may look for ministers and missionaries, who shall come up to the help of the Lord when your present laborers are slumbering in the dust. Among these you may look for supporters and bulwarks of the Institution, whose establishment we this evening commemorate; when these hearts, which are now beating with joyful and grateful emotions, are motionless in the grave. Assembled in this same place they will rejoice over far more glorious and happy results than those which we contemplate, while our fathers and brethren here now, shall be rejoicing in heaven.

I might also mention, sir, as causes of devout thanksgiving, the number of Bible Classes and Sabbath Schools which have been organized and sustained by your missionaries. These are the hopes of the American Churches. But these blessed institutions were never enjoyed before in many of the places where your laborers have established them the past year.

What though in these institutions we see the operations of apparently but small causes, yet they shall be followed with glorious results.

There is another cause of gratitude and thanksgiving to the Great Head of the Church for his signal blessings upon this Institution,—the impulse which it has given to the work of Home Missions in the United States. Two years ago this Society came