

NORTH CAROLINA Baptist Missionary Worker.

Jesus said: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Motto: "The World for Jesus Christ."

Vol. II.

RALEIGH, N. C., FEBRUARY, 1887.

No. 1.

WHY WE SHOULD SUPPORT STATE MISSIONS.

BY T. H. PRITCHARD.

First: Because thus we shall be able the better to retain our ministers in the State. I know that in other days we lost more men than now. Brantly, Manly, J. L. Brooks and Prof. Mims went from North Carolina to give strength and dignity to the Baptist pulpit of South Carolina. The Mercers, Silas and Jesse, were a great blessing to Georgia, while Kerr, Howell and Poindexter, three of the very ablest men our Southern Zion has produced, gave the force of their great powers to build up the cause of truth in Virginia, rather than in their native State. More recently our losses have been many and serious. Missouri alone drew from us Emmerson, Berry, Brown, one of the editors of the *Central Baptist*, Pittman, Nelson and Harman. And so indeed, in all the Southern States the sons of North Carolina are among the most learned and useful pastors laboring for the Master.

I will not deny that we have made rapid progress. I am glad to know that in Bailey, Overby, the Royalls, the Taylors, the McManaways, Nelson, Strickland, the Woodsons, Wood, Battle, Wildman, Perry, Jenkins, Hardaway, Tolson, etc., we have gained more than we have lost of late years; nevertheless, so great is the field of our destitution, and so inadequate the supply of ministers that we cannot afford to lose any of our men at this juncture of our history.

Now these brethren did not leave North Carolina because they were wanting in love for their native State, nor because there were no fields for them to cultivate here. They went for the reason that they were not supported at home and were offered living salaries elsewhere. If we will give our State Board a generous support, it can supplement the salaries given by many important but weak churches, and thus keep their pastors with us. Moreover, we can not only thus afford remunerative employment for our own ministerial students during vacation and prevent other States from enticing them from us as they have done in several instances, but we can attract to our borders many good men, old and young, who will greatly strengthen our denomination. I venture to say that if this Board had the command of \$25,000 we could draw from all parts of the country many excellent pastors to make glad the places that are now solitary.

We should support this cause, in the second place, because it is near us, and is emphatically *our cause*. If it be true that "man's duties lie about him in concentric circles," then the duty which is nearest to him has the first and most imperative claim on him. This proposition I believe to be sustained by the Scriptures, as well as common sense. The Gospel was to *begin at Jerusalem*. Even the great Apostle to the Gentiles felt himself bound first to offer the blessings of the Gospel to *his kinsmen according to the flesh*.

I do not say that we shall wait till *all* the people of our own State shall be converted before we shall send the Gospel to the regions beyond, but I do say with emphasis, that nothing can relieve us of the duty of laboring especially for the salvation of those who are our neighbors and friends.

Moreover, it is evident, in the third place, that

State Missions lie at the very basis of foreign missions. The foreign work needs men, money and prayer. As we prosecute the work at home with vigor, our churches become stronger, our ministers are multiplied, all the christian graces are called into active exercise, and the fountains of faith, zeal, energy, and liberality are opened by which the work abroad will be best strengthened and prosecuted. The home work is the parent stem—the foreign work the branches—just as the parent stem is made vigorous and strong, in the same proportion will the branches be healthy and fruitful.

Remember, brethren, that State Missions are the foundation of all our enterprises.

IMPORTANCE OF STATE MISSIONS.

Whoever believes in the necessity of the preaching of the gospel must be a friend of State Missions. For this involves nothing more than the doing for neighbors and countrymen who are not directly within the reach of our voices that which we are doing for those who are. Would we not be glad to have the former present if they had it in their power to attend upon the preaching of the Word at our respective churches? But by reason of distance—a mere accident—they cannot attend. Shall we any the less on that account feel an interest in their salvation, and endeavor to bring them to Christ? Do we forget and cease to take an interest in the child or brother who has moved away from our immediate neighborhood, and whom we cannot now, as perhaps once, welcome to our abode, or see at our social gatherings? He approaches more nearly our ideal of the true man whose sympathies are not confined within the narrow limits of the senses, and feels for his fellows only when he sees them or has them within visiting distance. Even our anti-mission brethren believe in Home and State Missions. They may object to the name, but their practice proves that they have no objection to the thing meant. The following incident puts this in a clear light.

Two preachers—father and son—found themselves, in the providence of God, in the midst of an association strongly imbued with anti-missionism. They frequently spoke to each other of the matter, and strove to devise some expedient for breaking the shell. At a regular meeting of the body, the son moved that two "missionaries" be appointed to labor within the bounds of the association. The motion was opposed by several, and by none more vehemently than by the father, who took the ground that the Bible made no mention of "missionaries," and that it was exceedingly dangerous to introduce into the Lord's work measures which his Word did not sanction. Both propositions, so evidently true, he insisted on to the evident satisfaction of all the good brethren.

Feeling himself thus entrenched in the confidence of the body, on the next day he introduced the following preamble and resolution:

"WHEREAS, There are three districts within the bounds of the Association wholly without preaching, viz.: A, B and C, (not to mention the names.)

Resolved, That this Association "send away" (Acts 13: 3), two brethren to preach the word of God (Acts 13: 5), in those districts."

The resolution was carried by a large majority, the son even, recovering from the blow dealt him the day before, voting for it. And to-day that as-

sociation is "sending away" men to preach the gospel in "the regions beyond."

No converted man can, without doing violence to his better nature, be indifferent to the salvation of men at home and abroad. Whether in the ministry or out of it, "the love of Christ constrains him"—he must work and give. To repress this generous tendency is to injure himself and wrong his own soul. To fail to respond to it is to become dwarfed, and to undermine the foundations of Christian manhood.

Spiritual leanness must be superinduced by curbing an impulse so divine. Christian activity and spiritual health are inseparably connected. The springs of joy dry up when choked by repeated neglects of duty so imperative. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." If to be of large soul and of large capacity for spiritual enjoyment is "blessed," then is giving better than receiving, good as the latter is.

If a North Carolinian, from Cherokee to Currituck, is reported as starving, what North Carolinian anywhere does not come to the rescue? By every train bread and meat are forwarded, and the telegraph click in sympathy with the generous impulses of loving hearts.

Now, there are souls starving for the bread of life in many a hamlet and swamp and mountain cove in North Carolina. Christian men and women! to the rescue. Send help. Aid the toilers in these destitute regions. Be encouraged to give yet more liberally in view of the great success God has given to the labors of his servants in the past. See how he has filled with Baptist churches regions which thirty years ago were spiritual deserts. Your labor has not been in vain. Nor will the future be less marked with success if we continue to go, and to pray and to give. God's word cannot fail.

WM. ROYALL.

SOME IMPORTANT FIELDS.

The territory through which the new railroads in North Carolina are going should receive the immediate attention of our brethren. Centres of influence will grow up at the stations, and, sooner or later, considerable towns will be seen where now are to be found only the forests and farmhouses. It would be but wisdom on the part of our good brethren who live in these neighborhoods to secure two or three acres of land in the best locations near these depots for future use. We shall shortly need Baptist churches at every one of them.

Let the brethren who live along the lines of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley, Wilson and Florence, and other new roads, take the hint, and act it out at once.

I HOPE that every one who reads this will send one dollar to Rev. T. M. Honeycutt, Sparta, Alleghany Co., N. C., to help him pay a debt of \$150 on his house of worship. He has spent all his own means upon it, and now lacks the \$150 of having enough to raise the debt. This is a very important field, the key to the whole county. Help him all you can.

LET every Church and Sunday School in the State send us a contribution for State Missions immediately. We greatly need \$2,000 to pay the first quarterage.