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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR
FOREIGN MISSIONS,
AT THE
SPECIAL MEETING
HELD IN
THE CITY OF NEW YORK, JAN. 18, 19, AND 20TH,
1842.

BOSTON:
PRINTED BY CROCKER & BREWSTER,
47, Washington-Street.

1842.

THE
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M I N U T E S

OF THE

S P E C I A L M E E T I N G ,

JANUARY 18, 19, AND 20, 1842.

A SPECIAL meeting of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions was held in the city of New York, commencing on Tuesday the eighteenth day of January, 1842, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The sessions for business, and also the meetings for devotional services and addresses, were held in the Central Presbyterian Church, in Broome Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

The following Corporate Members were present :—

HON. THEODORE FRELINGHUYSEN,	GEORGE E. PIERCE, D. D.
HON. THOMAS S. WILLIAMS,	JAMES M. MATTHEWS, D. D.
HON. SAMUEL HUBBARD,	MARK TUCKER, D. D.
ALEXANDER PROUDFIT, D. D.	PELATIAH PERIT, Esq.
GARDINER SPRING, D. D.	WILLIAM W. CHESTER, Esq.
HON. SAMUEL T. ARMSTRONG,	RICHARD T. HAINES, Esq.
JUSTIN EDWARDS, D. D.	D. W. C. OLYPHANT, Esq.
JOHN CODMAN, D. D.	HON. LEVI CUTTER,
THOMAS DEWITT, D. D.	REV. NEHEMIAH ADAMS,
JOSHUA BATES, D. D.	REV. ALBERT BARNES,
HENRY HILL, Esq.	REV. SILAS AIKEN,
CHARLES STODDARD, Esq.	REV. DAVID MAGIE,
JOHN TAPPAN, Esq.	REV. HORATIO BARDWELL,
THOMAS H. SKINNER, D. D.	REV. Z. S. BARSTOW,
RUFUS ANDERSON, D. D.	REV. CHARLES WALKER,
REV. DAVID GREENE,	REV. WILLARD CHILD,
WILLIAM J. ARMSTRONG, D. D.	C. W. ROCKWELL, Esq.
NOAH PORTER, D. D.	REV. CHAUNCEY EDDY.

The following Honorary Members were present :—

From New Hampshire :—

Rev. Edwin Holt, Portsmouth.

From Massachusetts :—

Rev. F. V. Pike, Newburyport,

Rev. Samuel Backus, Palmer,

Rev. Seth Bliss, Boston,

Mr. Daniel Safford, Boston,

Rev. Gorham D. Abbott, Boston,

Rev. Daniel Crosby, Charlestown,

Rev. Francis Tracy, Sunderland,

Rev. Samuel H. Riddel, Boston.

From Connecticut :—

Rev. J. W. Alvord, Stamford,

Rev. D. M. Seward, New Britain,

Rev. D. B. Butler, Stanwich,

Rev. Janson Atwater, Middlebury,

Rev. Hollis Read, Derby,

Rev. Rolin S. Stone, Danbury,

Rev. Francis C. Woodworth, Norwalk,

Rev. Daniel C. Curtis, Green Farms,

Rev. Theophilus Smith, New Canaan,

Rev. Mark Mead, Greenwich,

Rev. C. Wilcox, North Greenwich,

Rev. Orson Cowles, North Haven,

Rev. John Smith, Wilton,

Mr. Silas H. Mead, North Greenwich,

Mr. Seth Seelye, Bethel,

Rev. Noah Coe, Greenwich,

Rev. Joseph Eldridge, Norfolk,

Rev. Erastus I. Cranston, Burlington,

Mr. Obediah Mead, North Greenwich,

Rev. Benjamin J. Lane, Suffield,

C. A. Goodrich, D. D., New Haven,

Mr. Oliver G. Butler, Norfolk,

Rev. J. P. Thompson, New Haven,

Rev. Noah Porter, Jr., New Milford,

Rev. Platt Buffett, Greenwich,

Rev. S. L. Hough, Northford,

Rev. Edwin Hall, Norwalk,

Rev. Joseph Fuller, Ridgefield,

Rev. Henry G. Ludlow, New Haven,

Jonathan Cogswell, D.D., E. Windsor,

Mr. Thomas A. Mead, Greenwich.

From New York :—

Rev. Miles P. Squier, Geneva,

Rev. John Marsh, New York city,

Rev. Henry A. Rowland, “

Rev. Samuel I. Prime, “

D. C. Porter, Esq. “

Mr. A. P. Cummings, “

Rev. Samuel D. Burchard, “

Rev. Isaac Lewis, “

Rev. John J. Owen, New York city,

William Brown, Esq. “

Rev. George B. Cheever, “

Rev. J. W. McLane, “

Rev. E. Van Aken, “

Rev. William Adams, “

Thatcher Magoon, Esq. “

D. H. Wickham, Esq. “

Rev. William A. Hallock, “

Rev. J. C. Brigham, “

Rev. Edwin F. Hatfield, “

Rev. Asa D. Smith, “

Jasper Corning, Esq. “

Absalom Peters, D. D. “

William Patton, D. D. “

Rev. Samuel Whittelsey, “

Mr. Luther Jackson, “

Rev. James H. Thomas, “

Rev. William McLaren, “

Rev. G. Barrett, “

Rev. E. W. Andrews, “

Francis Williams, M. D. “

Rev. O. Eastman, “

Rev. S. B. Treat, “

Rev. William Bradford, “

Joel Parker, D. D. “

Rev. Charles Hall, “

Edward Robinson, D. D. “

Rev. Edward N. Kirk, “

Rev. Cyrus Mason, “

Rev. Mason Noble, “

Rev. James Knox, “

Rev. Milton Badger, “

Mr. W. R. Johnson, “

Mr. Charles Butler, “

Rev. R. S. Cook, “

Horace Holden, Esq. “

William G. Lambert, Esq. “

Rev. John Forsyth, Jr., Newburgh,

Rev. E. D. G. Prime, Scotchtown,

Rev. Ward Stafford, Brooklyn,

Abijah Fisher, Esq. “

Rev. W. H. Bidwell, “

Samuel H. Cox, D. D. “

Rev. J. M. Rowland, “

Rev. Walter R. Long, West Troy,

Rev. J. M. Macdonald, Jamaica,

Mr. Simeon Benjamin, Elmira,

Rev. O. M. Johnson, Denton.

From New Jersey :—

Rev. Wm. Bradley, New Brunswick,

Rev. R. Street, Connecticut Farms,

Rev. A. H. Dumont, Morristown,

Rev. Ransford Wells, Newark,

Rev. Saml. W. Fisher, W. Bloomfield,	Mr. John Taylor, Newark,
Rev. James M. Hunting, Westfield,	Mr. James Crane, Elizabethtown,
Rev. Wm. R. S. Betts, Mount Holly,	Mr. Charles Davis, "
L. A. Smith, M. D., Newark,	Rev. Lewis Bond, Plainfield,
Samuel Fisher, D. D., W. Bloomfield,	Rev. John Ford, Parsippany,
Rev. Horatio N. Brinsmade, Newark,	Rev. J. C. Hart, Springfield,
Rev. Ebenezer Cheever, Newark,	Rev. Ethan Smith, Newark,
Rev. A. D. Eddy, Newark,	Rev. C. S. Arms, Madison.
Rev. William C. White, Orange,	
Mr. Benjamin N. Martin,	<i>From Pennsylvania:—</i>
Rev. E. Seymour, Bloomfield,	Rev. Eliakim Phelps, Philadelphia,
Rev. Orlando Kirtland, Morristown,	Professor J. H. Agnew, "
Rev. C. Hoover, Newark,	Rev. T. T. Waterman, "
Rev. J. S. Gallagher, Orange,	Rev. Thomas Brainard, "
Peter A. Johnson, Esq., Morristown,	Rev. A. Converse, "
Rev. H. N. Pohlman, N. Germantown,	

There were also present the following Missionaries of the Board, viz.:

Rev. Justin Perkins, Ooroomiah, Persia.
 Rev. Hiram Bingham, Sandwich Islands.
 Peter Parker, M. D., Canton, China.
 Mr. Homan Hallock, Assistant Missionary, Smyrna.
Also, Mar Yohannan, a Nestorian Bishop from Ooroomiah, Persia.

ORGANIZATION.

The President, the Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen, took the chair; and at his request, the Rev. Dr. Codman opened the meeting with prayer.

A letter from the Rev. Dr. Chapin, the Recording Secretary, was read, stating that in consequence of ill health he was unable to attend the meeting: whereupon the Rev. Daniel Crosby of Charlestown, Mass., was appointed Recording Secretary for the meeting, and the Rev. Edwin Holt of Portsmouth, N. H., was appointed Assistant Recording Secretary.

The Rev. William Adams, Rev. Dr. Ferris, Rev. David Magie, Hon. Samuel Hubbard, and Pelatiah Perit, Esq., were appointed a Committee of Arrangements.

Letters from the following members of the Board, not able to be present, were laid before the meeting, expressive of their lively interest in its objects and proceedings:—

From Maine:—
 Gen. Henry Sewall,
 Enoch Pond, D. D.
 Benjamin Tappan, D. D.
 Rev. J. W. Ellingwood.

From New Hampshire:—
 Rev. Aaron Warner.

From Vermont:—
 Hon. Charles Marsh,

E. W. Hooker, D. D.
 John Wheeler, D. D.
 William Page, Esq.

From Massachusetts:—
 Hon. Lewis Strong,
 Leonard Woods, D. D.
 Heman Humphrey, D. D.
 Daniel Dana, D. D.
 Mark Hopkins, D. D.
 William Allen, D. D.

Alfred Ely, D. D.
Hon. David Mack, Jr.

From Connecticut :—
John T. Norton, Esq.
Hon. Seth Teny,
Jeremiah Day, D. D.

From New York :—
Eliphalet Wickes, Esq.
Orrin Day, Esq.
Elisha Yale, D. D.
Diedrich Willers, D. D.
Henry Davis, D. D.
Hon. Reuben H. Walworth,
David H. Little, Esq.
H. H. Seelye, Esq.
N. W. Howell, LL. D.
Nathan S. S. Beman, D. D.
Thomas McAuley, D. D.,

From New Jersey :—
Hon. J. C. Hornblower.

From Pennsylvania :—
John W. Nevin, D. D.
David H. Riddle, D. D.
William Neil, D. D.

District of Columbia :—
B. M. Palmer, D. D.

From South Carolina :—
Reuben Post, D. D.

From Tennessee :—
Charles Coffin, D. D.

From Missouri :—
Rev. Artemas Bullard.

Dr. Anderson, in behalf of the Prudential Committee, made a statement of the business which that Committee had to lay before the Board.

CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO THE APPOINTMENT OF THIS MEETING.

The following paper was read by Mr. Greene.—

As this is the first special meeting held by the Board during the thirty-two years which have elapsed since its organization, it seems proper, before entering on its business, to advert to the peculiar crisis of affairs which induced the Board to appoint it.

The Prudential Committee went to the last annual meeting to report a heavier debt than had ever before embarrassed the treasury ; to state that many of the missions were painfully cramped in their operations by inadequate pecuniary allowances, while the openings for greatly extended labors were more wide and favorable, and the calls to an onward movement more urgent than at any former period. They also stated that while they had, in conducting the affairs of the missions, kept within the instructions given them by the Board, at each annual meeting for five years past, the indebtedness of the Board had been steadily increasing ; and should the income for the year then ensuing be no greater than it was the last, while the missions should go forward as they were then going, the debt at the next annual meeting would scarcely be less than \$100,000. They said also that they could not assume the responsibility of plunging the Board into debt to such an amount, while to reduce the missions by curtailment, or even to keep their expenditures within their present limits, when the providence and Spirit of God seemed so clearly to call for an advance, was not less painful and embarrassing. Nor could they think that the instructions which the Board might give them, nor the exhortations which, in the form of resolutions, it might send forth to the churches, furnished a sufficient guaranty for their going forward in the present emergency, when similar measures had failed to accomplish the desired object for so many years preceding.

Seeing the exigency into which the Board and its missions were brought, and the necessity of doing something which might be regarded as a basis, as

substantial as the circumstances would admit of, on which the amount of donations to the treasury for the ensuing year might be estimated, the members then present, on motion of the Rev. Dr. Edwards, came forward, and with almost perfect unanimity, pledged themselves individually to increase their own subscriptions at least one quarter above what they were last year, and to use their influence to induce others to do the same. In doing this, they simply stated what they might be relied on to do in the way of contribution and influence; from which might be inferred what the christian community, whom they represented, might, in view of the same considerations, be expected to do.

If the contributions from all parts of the country could, on an average, be increased one quarter above what they were last year, it was estimated that the missions could be sustained on their present scale, and the debt reduced nearly one half during the year then ensuing.

Still, as the measures about to be adopted had never before been resorted to, and it could not be certainly foreseen how the friends of missions would respond to the proposal which was to be made, the Committee thought they ought not to bear the responsibility of conducting the affairs of the missions in this emergency without having an early opportunity of conferring with the Board, in case the result of these measures should be unfavorable. The Committee therefore proposed that a special meeting of the Board should be held within six months, unless previous notice should be given by the president that the treasury was so far relieved as to render such a meeting unnecessary. Subsequently, on motion of some other member of the Board, the motion for the meeting was amended, by striking out the condition proposed by the Committee, and leaving the appointment of the meeting absolute. In this form the motion was carried, it is believed, unanimously.

In the manner now described, the responsibility of calling this meeting was taken from the Committee and assumed by the Board, in view of the emergency then existing; and under these circumstances we are now convened.

Those here present, who attended the late anniversary in Philadelphia, will remember what painful anxiety pervaded most of the deliberations of that meeting; and that, though at its close some rays of light broke in, which caused the hopes of the Board to prevail over their forebodings, yet, as the results of the appeal then to be made could not be foreseen, it was impossible that the developments of the successive months should not be watched with great solicitude. And this solicitude would have been far greater, had not the indications of the presence of the Spirit of God inspired the belief, that the closing movements of that meeting were guided by his wisdom, and that he would conduct them to a favorable issue.

So far as there has been opportunity for those measures to be carried into effect, and the results have appeared, the most encouraging anticipations which could have been entertained have been surpassed; both in respect to the amount of contributions received, and to the degree of interest in the missionary work, and of confidence in the Board, which have been manifested. The anxiety and fear felt at the annual meeting have, therefore, so far as the indebtedness of the Board and the carrying forward the missions through the current year are concerned, been, to a great extent, removed, and in this view of the subject, the present meeting must be one of thanksgiving and praise.

But the indebtedness, embarrassing as it was and injurious to the character of the Board, was not the only cause of the anxiety and deep feeling manifested at the annual meeting. Taking into view the destitutes of the unevangelized nations, and their present aspect and condition, it was then and remains still a momentous question, whether this Board and the christian community co-operating with it are to prosecute the missionary work on the present limited scale; or whether they are to go steadily forward, giving greater extent and efficiency to their operations from year to year, as the providence of God shall open the way, until Christ shall be preached to all nations. The

debt of the treasury, continued through so many years, swelling to such an amount, and regarded as an indication that the missionary feeling was not strong enough to carry forward the present operations of the Board, was sufficient cause for grief and alarm. But this debt, great as it was, might be liquidated by a single extra effort. Yet by such an effort, however successful, how little would the Board accomplish as a missionary society. How little would be gained, unless the means could be secured of going forward on a scale more commensurate with the magnitude and urgent nature of the work. An effort to liquidate the debt was needed; but the question really the most important then and now is, What measures shall be devised and what foundation shall be laid for a more extended and a more effective movement for the *conversion of the world to Christ*? This is a question which, taking into view the present indications of divine providence, as seen in the openings in the heathen world and the facilities for spreading the gospel, calls for most prayerful and solemn consideration at this time. Perhaps we ought to estimate anew the magnitude of the work, count again the cost, review the principles on which, and the extent to which, we have consecrated ourselves to it, trace the progress already made, and examine again when and how it is to be fully accomplished.

STATEMENTS RELATIVE TO THE RESPONSES RECEIVED TO THE
CIRCULAR OF THE BOARD.

The paper which follows was also read by Mr. Greene.—

With little delay, after the Annual Meeting, in conformity with a vote then passed, the Prudential Committee prepared a circular letter, to be sent, in the name of the Board, to all the corporate and honorary members not present at that meeting, informing them briefly of the emergency into which the Board and its missions were brought; what, in view of this emergency, had been done by the members present at the meeting, and proposing to the absent members the same three questions that were proposed to those who were present, and requesting them to return answers before the present meeting. To this circular were appended the names of all who replied to the questions at the annual meeting, with their several answers.

Of this circular, the Committee sent forth about 2,900 copies; refraining from addressing any to those, so far as they knew them, who had, by becoming connected with other missionary societies, virtually ceased to be active members of this Board.

At the annual meeting it was suggested that another letter should be addressed to the pastors of all the churches that co-operate with the Board; and the expediency of doing this was referred to the Prudential Committee. After considering the subject, it was thought that, as a large proportion of those pastors are either corporate or honorary members of the Board, and as the movement commenced at the annual meeting was especially appropriate to those standing in that relation,—it was not advisable to make any formal address to other pastors. This seemed to be the less called for, as the statement laid before the Board at the meeting, with all the proceedings on that occasion were going abroad so widely in the religious papers. With the hope, however, of placing this information before many friends of missions whom it might not reach through the ordinary channels, 50,000 copies of the Dayspring, containing an abridged report of the meeting, were sent forth.

To the circular letter just referred to, 296 answers have been received. From ministers there are 218, from laymen 79. To shew how far these responses indicate the state of missionary feeling over the country at large, it may be proper to mention that there are from Maine 27; from New Hampshire 30; from Vermont 27; from Massachusetts 96; from Rhode Island 3;

from Connecticut 28; from New York 62; from New Jersey 6; from Pennsylvania 2; from Virginia 2; from Tennessee 2; from South Carolina 1; from Louisiana, 1; from Missouri 1; from Michigan 3; from Wisconsin Territory 2; from Georgia 1; and Indiana 1.

Besides these responses which have been forwarded to the Committee by individual members of the Board, there has been a more informal, though perhaps not less hearty response made probably by an equal or greater number of both ministers and laymen at the meetings of ecclesiastical bodies and auxiliary societies; embracing one Synod and some Presbyteries and Associations in the State of New York, some in the States of New Hampshire and Maine, by the members of which the first two of the three questions proposed at the Annual Meeting were answered with great unanimity. At the annual meetings of nearly all the auxiliary societies, in the State of Connecticut, eight or ten in Massachusetts, and nearly all those in Vermont and of some in other States, embracing nearly all the auxiliary meetings held since the anniversary of the Board, the questions just alluded to were put and affirmatively responded to with great promptness and unanimity by those present. These proceedings have been reported by agents or other delegates who attended the meetings on behalf of the Board, and probably the members of the Board then present regarded them as a substitute for more formal responses.

It should be added also, that, from the reports received, it appears that these meetings of auxiliary societies have been attended by unusually large numbers of the ministers and others connected with them; in many instances nearly every minister being present.

Adding the responses thus made to those more formal ones sent to the Committee, the whole number will not probably fall short of six hundred.

In addition to the replies to the circular letter, received from members of the Board, it should be mentioned that other friends, not members of the Board, in view of the existing emergency, have written, expressing their confidence in the Board, and pledging their continued and increasing contributions, as well as their influence in securing the co-operation of others.

As the character of the responses to the circular letter, especially when containing, as a large part of them have done, accounts of greatly augmented contributions, have deeply interested the Committee, and encouraged them in their work, they could wish that they might all be laid before this meeting. But as the time at command will not admit of this, it is proposed to advert briefly to a few points on which these responses give occasion to remark. Afterwards it may be deemed expedient to read short extracts from some of them.

It may be proper to notice

1. The full and hearty approbation expressed by the writers of the course adopted by the Board at the annual meeting, and their readiness to join in the pledge then given, to make increased exertions to carry forward the missionary work. A large portion of the writers take pains, as with one mind, and almost in the same language, to state explicitly their unqualified approval of those proceedings, while others do it no less decidedly, though less formally. Not an individual, either by letter or in the meetings of auxiliaries or ecclesiastical bodies, so far as the Committee are informed, has expressed any disapprobation, or any unwillingness to fall in with and carry out the plan. Some few have declined binding themselves by any *pledge*, who at the same time have not fallen at all behind their brethren in their hearty and successful exertions to accomplish the object aimed at. So far as the Committee know, the circular has every where been most kindly received.

2. These responses indicate a new developement of the missionary spirit, stronger in its actings, and more widely prevalent than has heretofore been manifested. It would seem that the friends of missions are more disposed than heretofore to appropriate the missionary work to themselves, as their

own work, in which, as Christians, they have a personal interest, and for which they are, to the extent of their ability and influence, responsible. There seems to be that kind of interest and zeal, which makes them willing to incur labor and self-denial, and actually to make sacrifices to promote the cause; and which fills them with pain and grief when its progress is embarrassed or hindered. The proceedings at the annual meeting, as published in the religious papers, have been read in place of a sermon on the Sabbath, and at the Monthly Concert of prayer, and the deep feeling awakened in ministers and churches by the narrative, and the results which have followed, clearly show this. Similar effects have followed statements made respecting those proceedings by agents in their visits to churches and auxiliary societies. There appears to be more than heretofore, though far less than there should be, a feeling that this work is enjoined by the Lord Jesus; and that earnest and vigorous co-operation in it is essential to Christian character and discipleship.

3. The responses to the circular shew that there is widely prevalent a confidence in the ability and duty of the Christian community to go forward in the missionary work on a more enlarged scale, and with more energy and despatch, than heretofore. Not more than two or three of the writers have expressed any doubts that the christian community were ready and willing to make a steady advance in this great enterprise, as God shall open the way and grant them ability, until the blessings of Christianity shall be experienced by all the nations.

4. The responses develop the practicability of a powerful pastoral influence being exerted in this cause, and show the value of it. This movement has shown more clearly than has ever been done before, to how great an extent the services of agents can be dispensed with, whenever the pastors, having their souls stirred with compassion for the heathen, shall enter unitedly and vigorously into the work. The number of sermons preached by them at this crisis, in bringing the cause before their respective churches, the resolutions formed by many to preach stated sermons monthly or at other regular periods, their visitation of other churches on the same errand, their labors as collectors, and in their personal application to men of wealth, and in many other ways, all show that pastors may exert a most efficient and salutary influence in promoting the missionary work; and show also that they are in a good measure prepared for it.

5. Among laymen, also, there has been, as shown by these responses, a similar manifestation of unusually deep interest in the missionary work. Men of the very first character and standing among their fellow citizens, have publicly and earnestly advocated the cause, have taken on themselves the labor of collectors, have been active in disseminating missionary intelligence, have greatly increased their own contributions, and in various other ways have expressed that warm interest in this enterprise, that energy, and those enlarged views in regard to it, so characteristic of business men, and which afford so much encouragement and promise.

6. In these responses many facts have come to the knowledge of the Committee showing the need of a wider *dissemination of missionary intelligence*, as one of the essential means of sustaining and extending the missionary spirit. No permanent interest in this work can be awakened, no great self-denial or effort, no liberal system of contributions can be carried forward, among the great body of the community, without this.

7. The responses indicate unabated confidence in the Board. The unqualified expressions of this confidence, contained in every answer received to the circular, and in the proceedings of ecclesiastical bodies, auxiliary societies, and churches, call upon the Board for devout thanksgiving and praise to God, that in a work so complicated, and conducted through so many embarrassments, they should have been enabled to acquit themselves in a manner to secure so uniformly and for so long a time, the approbation of their brethren.

A single point more will be remarked upon.

8. From the contents of the responses to the circular, it is obvious, that so far as preparation for the work in the minds of the christian community is concerned, most encouraging progress has been made in the missionary enterprise. If it can be supposed that the Board, during any one of the first five years of its existence, in no one of which did its annual income scarcely equal the amount of its *smallest* monthly receipts during the last five, had found its treasury indebted to the amount of nearly \$60,000, what possible prospect could it have had of liquidating that debt, or moving onward in its work? What knowledge was there then abroad in the community respecting the heathen nations,—what conception was there in the minds of men of the greatness and urgency of the work of their conversion, or of the practicability and duty of accomplishing it,—where was there a feeling of personal interest in the missionary work, and of responsibility to labor zealously to obey the last command of Christ to carry the gospel to every creature—on which an appeal from this Board could have operated successfully?—Where were then the agencies, the organizations, the widely-distributed publications, the pastors well-informed and zealous in this work to act in the churches?—Where were the retrenchment, the self-denial and sacrifice, the systematic and well-established habits of giving?—where were the contributors of hundreds and thousands of dollars, and the countless multitudes who brought their smaller offerings, by means of which such a deficiency could have been made up,—where was the spirit of prayer for the world's conversion, assembling almost every church in the land on the first Monday of each month,—where was the warm language, of sympathy and support which, on any emergency would break forth from thousands of hearts,—and where was the church's earnest desire and looking for the world's redemption—which now so much encourage our labors? Not but that there were men then engaged in this holy enterprise whose devotedness and zeal have not been surpassed—those pioneers whose wisdom and energy, under God, gave to this work a direction and an impulse, the results of which we delight gratefully to recognize. Not that the christian community at this day have that burning desire that God's being and character should be known by all men;—that controlling regard to the command of the Savior, or that soul-stirring compassion for the heathen, which ought to fill every christian breast. Not that there is in this day, that hearty pouring forth of prayer, and labor, and treasure for the conversion of the world to Christ which the exigency demands. Very far from it. In this respect we have nothing to boast of. Rather, considering the light which has been shed on this subject, the extent to which the promises of God have been fulfilled for our encouragement, and the ampler means placed at our disposal, we have reason for deep humiliation. Still, in all these respects, we cannot but see that great progress has been made. In the year 1827, and again in 1828, the Prudential Committee, in addresses to the friends of missions, stated that the operations of the Board could not be well sustained unless the average receipts should be \$10,000 a month. It seemed then more as if the Committee were asking for what they could not hope to realize, than it would now if they were to ask for \$30,000 a month. Indeed, it was not until the year 1832,—five years afterwards—that the average monthly receipts rose to \$10,000.

In the review of the past growth of missionary zeal and enterprise and liberality, the survey of the present deepening and extending interest in this work throughout our community, and in the smiles of God upon the endeavors of this Board at home and abroad, have we not abundant reason to thank the Great Head of the Church for what has already been accomplished, and enter with new zeal and confidence on the career which is opening before us?

After the reading of the foregoing document was closed, extracts from the responses were read, illustrating the statements which had just been made.

In confirmation of the same statements, the treasurer of the Board, Henry Hill, Esq., gave a brief view of the receipts and disbursements since the annual meeting in September, showing that the indebtedness of the treasury had been reduced from more than \$57,000 to about \$20,000.

Statements were also made by pastors and others, relative to the increase of interest in the missionary work, in the churches and auxiliaries with which they were severally connected.

On the circular addressed to the members of the Board and the responses to the same, the Rev. Drs. Bates, Spring, Codman, and Proudfit, Rev. Messrs. Seth Bliss and S. D. Burchard, and P. Perit, Esq., were appointed a committee. They subsequently reported, recommending that the document from the Prudential Committee be printed and circulated; which was adopted.

RESOLUTIONS PROPOSING SPECIAL THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER.

On behalf of the Chairman of the Prudential Committee, Dr. Anderson offered the following preamble and resolutions:

In view of the goodness of God towards this Board at their Annual Meeting in September last, in leading the minds of its members to pledge themselves to sustain the missionary cause and to use their influence to engage the christian community to increase their subscriptions, as well for the reduction of the debt of the Board, as for the sustaining of its missions, and in view of the signal answer, which has been made to this call, by which encouragement is given, that, if the friends of the Redeemer shall continue their efforts as they have begun, the Board will not only be relieved from its pecuniary embarrassments, but the means will be supplied for its future progress;

Therefore, *Resolved*, That we recognise, in this action of the christian community, the answer of the Lord to the prayers of his people, and in expression of our gratitude to Him, we will observe the afternoon and evening of Wednesday as a special season of thanksgiving and praise, for His distinguished kindness to this Board; and of prayer for the out-pouring of His Spirit upon the churches at home, and at the missionary stations.

And believing that the great cause of missions cannot permanently prosper without continued additions to our churches of faithful and devoted members, and of young men for missionaries, therefore

Resolved, That the Board respectfully suggest to the pastors the expediency of recommending to the churches that the monthly concert of February next be observed by the churches of Christ connected with this Board, and its friends at large, as a season of special prayer, for the immediate revival of religion in all our churches at home and abroad, so that the friends and followers of the Redeemer may be greatly multiplied, and the cause of christian benevolence advanced.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the members of the several churches, to make constant remembrance of this concert in their prayers, and to seek for preparation of heart for the receiving of God's blessing in answer to the supplications of that day, in the full belief, that as the Lord has shown us his favor as to our temporal necessities, he will also confer on us and them still greater spiritual blessings, and thus all be prepared for the onward progress of His kingdom.

HISTORICAL VIEW OF THE MISSIONS OF THE BOARD.

A paper was read by Dr. Anderson giving a brief historical view of the several missions of the Board, for the purpose of bringing the field in which the Board has been operating during thirty years, with the progress made and the openings and facilities for greatly extended labors distinctly before the meeting. As the principal statements contained in this paper may be found in the Annual Report, it is not deemed necessary to insert it here. This, with the statement made by the treasurer relative to the financial concerns of the Board, was committed to the Rev. Drs. Skinner, Edwards, Patton, Cox, and Tucker, and Rev. Messrs. Magie and Forsyth.

This committee subsequently reported approving of the documents submitted to them; which was adopted.

RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINING AND ENLARGING THE MISSIONS.

Dr. Armstrong read the following paper, showing the ability of the patrons of the Board to carry forward the missionary work with a progressively increasing expenditure, and suggesting measures by which enlarged contributions may be called forth and continued.

When we look at the progressive character of the work in which the Board is engaged, and the necessity for increasing funds, in proportion to its progress, a question arises as to the ability of the patrons of the Board, to meet these growing demands, and the means, by which adequate contributions may be obtained.

The churches that regard this Board as their agency for the missionary work, contain more than 300,000 communicants. Of these, about one half are in New England. Nine-tenths of the remainder are in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the western states north of the Ohio river. The resources of the Board are mainly drawn from that part of our country, which is most remarkable for enterprize, industry, and economy; for great and varied natural resources, and the rapid increase of its population and development of its resources; for general education, and the blessings of a preached gospel, and an educated ministry. Throughout this wide field, the supporters of the Board form a part of the population, not surpassed by any other equally numerous, in activity, energy, intelligence and piety. If their contributions already approached the limit of their present ability, we might rationally hope for such an increase of their numbers and resources, from year to year, as would be sufficient to meet the growing wants of the missions.

But present contributions can scarcely be regarded as approaching the limits of present ability. The donations to the Board during the last financial year, exclusive of legacies, and contributions from foreign countries, were about \$210,000. This is an average of seventy cents per annum to each of the 300,000 church members, to whom the Board look for support. Of this amount, not less than \$35,000, one-sixth of the whole, was given by a comparatively small number of persons, in sums, varying from \$50, to \$1,000. The *general average* of individual contributions, was not therefore more than sixty cents. Of the remaining \$175,000, not less than \$40,000, (almost one-fourth of the whole) was given at the monthly concert of prayer, by not more than one-sixth of the church members. Most of these, in addi-

tion to what they gave at the monthly concert, contributed their full proportion to the annual collections in their churches. Thus it appears, on the supposition that all the members of churches connected with the Board bore a part in the work, that the general average of contributions was less than fifty cents to each communicant, for the year. How easily might that amount be increased fourfold, or even tenfold, by economy and self-denial. Then it would hardly approximate to the sum expended by the whole community a few years since for intoxicating drinks, now admitted to be both useless and pernicious. It would be far less than is annually squandered in our large cities for amusements, that serve no other purpose than to while away an idle hour and yield a momentary gratification. There are among the patrons of the Board individual churches, whose contributions have averaged from five to eight dollars annually, for each member, for some years past, without any great self-denial, or any interference with the claims of other objects.

Careful investigation has evinced that the whole amount given to the Board is in fact contributed by about one-half of the members of churches professing to co-operate with it. The proportion of members actually contributing, and the average sum given by each member, vary very much in different parts of the country. They are largest in the State of Massachusetts, where, according to the best estimate that can be made, a little more than two-thirds of all the members of churches connected with the Board made contributions last year.

The average amount of these donations was about \$1.10 to each communicant, or \$1.66 to each communicant actually contributing. A like contribution from all the communicants in the churches connected with the Board, would give an annual income of \$500,000. In that case legacies and donations from non-communicants would swell the amount to \$600,000, twice the sum needed to sustain the missions on their present scale.

Yet the churches of Massachusetts are not oppressed or exhausted by what they are now doing for this cause. None of the patrons of the Board respond more cheerfully to its appeals for an increase of funds. No where do other benevolent objects receive a more liberal support.

One of the auxiliaries of the Board in Massachusetts publishes annually a full and accurate statement of all contributions to its treasury. The returns thus made present some interesting facts. The auxiliary embraces sixteen churches, which reported to the General Association in 1841, 2,490 members. It is made up chiefly of a rural and agricultural population. There is no city or large town within its limits. All the churches have male and female foreign missionary associations. The plan of contributing by dividing each parish into districts, and appointing collectors of both sexes, for each district, is universal. The amount collected by this auxiliary in 1841, through the associations, was \$2,696 22. The report shews that contributions were made by 2,724 persons, exceeding by 234 the whole number of communicants. But as contributions were made by many who were not church members, (there were in one parish 89 juvenile contributors) it is certain that all the church members did not contribute.

By information derived from other sources, it is known that the proportion of church members who do not contribute in that part of the country, is about one-fifth of the whole. A careful analysis of the table of contributions shows that of the whole number of contributors, one-eighth pay less than 25 cents each per annum. A little more than one-fourth pay 25 cents. Less than one-fourth pay 50 cents. Less than one-fifth pay one dollar. One in fifteen pay two dollars. Of the whole number of contributors more than nine-tenths give one dollar or less, in sums varying from six cents to one dollar. Were all the actual contributors of this auxiliary, who gave one dollar, or less, to give only twice as much, the collection would be \$4,500, instead of \$2,600. How easily might this be done.

Yet the whole collection in this auxiliary last year, including the monthly concert, was \$3,288, making a general average on the whole number of church members of \$1.32. A like average on all the members of churches co-operating with the Board, would have increased the receipts to \$400,000.

Here is a body of country churches, made up mainly of plain farmers and mechanics, with no peculiar facilities for the acquisition of property, and not more wealthy than the same class of persons throughout the land. Their rate of contribution last year, had it been universal, would have nearly doubled the receipts of the Board. Yet nine out of ten of these gave one dollar or less. While one-fifth of all the church members made no contribution. Probably there is no other body of contiguous churches equally large, whose resources are more fully drawn out by a thorough and systematic organization. Yet how far do their contributions fall short of their ability, and how easy would it be for the great mass of contributors then, to advance in their subscriptions from year to year, as the progress of the missionary work calls for increasing means of support.

But if this is true of these churches, how much more is it true of the vast majority of the friends of the Board. Individuals may be found who are now doing as much as they are able to do, and there are perhaps a few churches that have fully come up to the measure of their ability. But take the aggregate of the patrons of the Board throughout the land, and there can be no question of their ability to sustain a system of missionary operations whose extensive and growing prosperity, shall call for a steadily increasing support from year to year.

Can they be induced thus to contribute, and if they can, by what means shall this be done?

Doubtless Christians may be persuaded to do their duty to the Savior and to their perishing brethren. It may require time, and much well directed labor, and the desired result may be reached by slow degrees. But to doubt its practicability, is a direct impeachment of His wisdom and goodness who redeemed his people with his own blood, and who dwells in them by his Spirit, that they may grow into his likeness, till they are presented faultless before God, with exceeding joy.

Three things are required to draw out the resources of the christian community to such an extent as the progressive enlargement of the missionary work may demand.

1. Information generally diffused, as to the wants of the heathen; the facilities God has given us for publishing the gospel among them, and the success with which it has pleased him to crown the labors of our missionary brethren. For this object, the Board has the means, through its publications, the *Missionary Herald* and the *Dayspring*, of conveying missionary intelligence monthly to all its patrons. And we may anticipate great and increasing aid from the periodical religious press. To our weekly religious papers, the Board is deeply indebted for their valuable help, freely given in time past. And never more indebted, than in the present crisis in its financial condition and prospects. They have borne an important part in diffusing the impulse given to the cause by the late meeting in Philadelphia. We may safely count on their continued co-operation.

The second requisite for drawing out the resources of the church for the missionary work, is thorough organization and systematic action, such as shall present the opportunity and the invitation to contribute, at stated times, according to their ability, to all who are friendly to the cause. For this purpose, the plan, repeatedly recommended by the Board, of auxiliary societies, embracing such churches as can conveniently act together; with associations male and female in every church; and collectors for the several sections of each church, has been tried and approved. It may be made as thorough, steady, and certain in its operations, as we would desire. The experience of

twenty years has shown that with proper attention it will become more and more efficient from year to year.

The third thing necessary to secure the desired result, is the presence and power of the Holy Ghost in the churches, filling the hearts of believers with love to Christ and compassion for perishing men, and making them willing to labor and deny themselves for the honor of the Savior and the salvation of those for whom he died.

We know that God is willing, according to promise and in answer to prayer, to give his Holy Spirit in such manner and measure, as shall render effectual the whole system of means for enlisting his people in the missionary work, so that according to their ability, yea and beyond it, they shall be ready of themselves to pour their free will offerings into his treasury.

Here then we have all necessary means for drawing forth the ample resources of the churches, to meet the growing wants of a system of missionary operations, steadily enlarging its sphere, and becoming more efficient in every department of evangelical labor, till in connection with the labors of kindred institutions, and through the abundant effusions of the Divine Spirit, the earth is full of the knowledge of the glory of God.

To promote the steady and successful action of this system, the Board has adopted as a part of its permanent arrangement, the employment of a suitable number of general agents, devoted to the work, who give themselves to the business of diffusing information, awakening interest in the missionary cause, and inviting the churches to seasonable action for its support.

Let us now have the cordial co-operation of pastors of churches and the leading friends of the cause, each charging himself with a personal responsibility, to look after the work in his own sphere of influence and effort, and setting an example of self-denying liberality according as God gives him the means. This will give circulation to missionary intelligence; it will ensure the needed organization and systematic action; it will animate the people of God to unceasing prayer, and thus secure the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, without whom all means and measures are impotent and vain, but through whom a little one shall become a thousand, and a feeble one a strong nation.

The heartfelt conviction of personal responsibility in the missionary work, pervading the assembled friends of the cause, at the late meeting of the Board in Philadelphia, was the most marked feature of that remarkable meeting. And the power of this principle to replenish an exhausted treasury, has been signally evinced. The increased interest and activity of pastors, is the most hopeful characteristic of the present movement in behalf of the missions.

The agents of the Board in all parts of the country, speak of this, with gratitude to God, and to their brethren. When they are able to visit the churches, it gives unwonted success to their appeals. When they cannot be present, it supplies their lack of service. May we not hope that these, the divinely appointed teachers and leaders of the people of God, will not grow weary, or relax their exertions? And with their persevering and cheerful co-operation, may we not rest assured, that the churches who have chosen this Board as their agent in the work of publishing the Gospel to every creature can and will supply abundant means, for the speedy, entire removal of all its pecuniary embarrassments, and its steady onward march, where the providence of God opens the way, and the Spirit of God sets his seal upon its labors!

The work is vast. It is urgent. It is full of encouragement. The character of the Board as the missionary representation of so many churches, and the prosperity of the missionary cause at home and abroad, demand the speedy entire liquidation of the remaining debt, and the enlarged and vigorous prosecution of our work. The sentiment with which a distinguished leader in the missionary enterprise, commenced his self-denying and useful

career, "attempt great things, expect great things," becomes more and more appropriate as the work advances toward its consummation. While the Lord of Hosts, according to his promise, hastens in his time, the blessed result so long predicted and prayed for, his people, who in his name have set up their banners, should forget the things that are behind, and reach forth to those that are before, till all nations call Messiah blessed, and the whole earth is full of his glory.

This document was referred to Chief Justice Williams, Rev. Mr. Barnes, Hon. B. F. Butler, Rev. Dr. DeWitt, Rev. Willard Child, Rev. Prof. Goodrich, Rev. E. Cheever, and Hon. Levi Cutter; to whom was also referred the following document read by Dr. Anderson, on

THE ESSENTIALLY PROGRESSIVE NATURE OF MISSIONS TO THE HEATHEN.

Foreign missions are believed to be essentially progressive. They are so, like the growth of a tree, or of a family. The analogy in the latter case is most striking. The children advance in physical, intellectual, and moral development, make increasing demands for food, clothing and education, and must be prepared to take an independent and useful stand in the world. This progress is a part of the family constitution, and violence is done to the laws of domestic and social life wherever it is resisted, or even not promoted. Up to a certain period, it involves a regular increase of expense, which no enlightened parent would withhold, except from necessity.

The same general truth holds in respect to missions. In our own system of missions at least, it is a fundamental truth, and one on which the deliberations of this meeting ought doubtless to turn. The time has come to count the cost of our enterprise, and to see, before going further, whether we are able and willing to meet it. Some have expressed the opinion, that the Board should form its plans on the basis of a fixed income; and they have mentioned 250,000 or 300,000 dollars, thinking it cannot be expected to receive a larger income. If a larger sum cannot be obtained, it is important we should know it; but the proof of such a fact would also prove the certainty of a decline, at no distant day, of our present system of missions, and also of the existing missionary spirit in our churches. It is impossible our system of missions should long be prosperous on a uniform basis of expenditure, unless there should be something like a new and extraordinary dispensation of the Spirit. Some, misled by supposed analogy drawn from the business of the world, can see no more difficulty in regulating the expenditures of foreign missions, than those of trade and commerce. But there is scarcely any analogy between the two. Besides the intrinsic difference in their natures, the work of missions is pre-eminently a work of faith. Faith apprehends the main grounds of confidence respecting it. Our hopes and expectations concerning its progress and final triumph, are sustained by the command, promise, faithfulness, power, and agency of Almighty God. There is great room for discretion, indeed, in forming new missions. A missionary society may have too many missions. But the missions being once instituted, they are subject, like so many families, to the inevitable necessity of being progressive, or of suffering penalties subversive of their very existence. This is the law of their nature. And up to a certain point in their advancement, there will be a regular increase in the demand for expenditure.

This fact would be viewed with concern, were it not that christian communities, on entering upon this work, do always commence their contributions on so small a scale, as to admit of a gradual enlargement, on the whole, for a long series of years. The most ample proof of this would result from a

thorough statistical investigation. It should also be considered, that the willingness of God's people to contribute,—wherein, for all practical purposes, consists their ability to do so,—increases as the magnitude and interest of the work are brought out to their view.

The object of foreign missions is to introduce the gospel among heathen nations; and experience shows that this can be effectually accomplished only by such a course of measures as will in fact secure for the people the self-sustaining institutions of the gospel. The apostles introduced these institutions; but they had far less labor to effect it, than we have, owing to the highly civilized state of the fields of their mission. Were the heathen countries we have to evangelize as civilized as Asia Minor, Macedonia, or Achaia, we should have to provide for only the personal and family expenses of the missionaries, and for printing the Scriptures and religious books and tracts; and even a part of this expense, and soon the whole, would be defrayed by the native converts. But in general there are stronger reasons now, owing to the degraded state of the heathen, than even the apostle Paul had at Corinth and Thessalonica, for not deriving the personal support of missionaries from heathen converts. The most that can be expected of them is, that they will be persuaded to support their own native teachers and preachers, and gradually to assume the support of the press, and of their schools and other institutions of learning.

And here it will be necessary to show what are the elements of a modern mission, and the sources of its expenditure. They are,—the personal and family expenses of the missionaries, common schools and school-houses, the printing of books, higher schools or seminaries, and the support of a native agency of various descriptions. The missionary not only publishes the gospel orally, but, as a good protestant Christian, he also gives the Bible to the people; which he can do only so far as the people are taught to read the printed page. Not that missionaries are to teach the whole heathen world to read, or even a considerable portion of it. The most they can do is to ensure the creation of such a public sentiment as shall secure this result. This involves the establishment of schools to some extent. These schools at the same time become attentive congregations, where there will be frequent opportunities for addressing parents, as well as children. They form also the missionary's strongest tie to the people at the commencement of his work, and his best means of infusing christian ideas into the language. Of books he will need, besides the Bible, a variety that are elementary in their character, historical, doctrinal and practical: the heathen world being entirely destitute of such as are fit for christian use. The school-houses will be cheap structures; and they will serve also for preaching-houses in the neighborhoods where they are situated. The meeting-houses will be required at the central points where the missionaries reside, whither the natives may resort at stated times to hear preaching. As soon as converts are multiplied, it becomes an interesting question, how native pastors shall be provided for them, and how, too, the more promising of the pious youth shall be rendered valuable evangelists and teachers in connection with the mission. Indeed this question ought always to arise at the very outset. The missions will be necessary from generation to generation, unless, as ministers of the grace of God, we proceed on a plan that will throw knowledge and power enough into the native mind to do without foreign aid. Upon any other plan, we have no reason to expect a mission to do otherwise than run out and fail. There is but one way of doing this in any country, civilized or savage, christian or heathen, and that is by giving a thorough education to a select number of minds—by training up teachers and leaders for the people in academies and colleges, on a principle that separates the pupils from the surrounding heathenism. It is only in institutions like these, a competent native ministry can be provided for the people. There need also to be seminaries for females, as well as males; the value of native helpers being mani-

fold greater, when they have intelligent and pious wives. And when we have educated pious natives to help us, we must give them employment, and must sustain them and their families until their native brethren can be induced to support them, or we lose some of the most valuable and costly fruits of our labors.

These, then, are the elements, the instrumentalities, the sources of expenditure, in a modern mission.

The more important indications of progress in a mission, are these;—collecting hearers, reducing languages to writing, translating the Scriptures, forming christian schools, creating a desire for education, awakening anxiety to learn the way of life eternal, multiplying converts, gathering churches, training up a native ministry and leading the people to support it; and whatever else shows an amelioration in the domestic, social, civil, and religious state of the people.

Now the principle we seek to establish is, not only that missions must be progressive, or they will run out, but that this progress becomes the basis of increased expenditure, and creates a demand for it. The demand will be answered and ought to be answered, more or less by the natives themselves; but, in most heathen communities, with all that can be got from the native converts, there will be an increasing demand upon us here at home, for men and pecuniary means, proportioned to the developement of results in the mission; and this may be expected to continue up to the period when the people have so far got possession of the institutions of the gospel and come under their influence, as to appreciate in some good measure their importance. Every new advance may be said to involve a call for additional expense, as the condition of its healthful permanence. Thus, the more disposition there is to have the word of life, the more necessity there will be for meeting-houses. The more earnest the desire for schools, the greater will be the demand for teachers, school-books, and perhaps school-houses; and the necessity for expenditure on this score will never be so urgent, as when the people, as at the Sandwich Islands, show a disposition to help themselves; for these are golden opportunities, too valuable to be lost. The cost in the printing department, for some time, if the means are at command, will be in proportion to the progress of mind and feeling upward from the depths of a barbarous and ignorant degradation; and when there are translations, schools, readers, native converts to be established in the faith, native helpers to be trained, and a community demanding the lights and benefits of general knowledge, it cannot but be considerable. It is at least an indispensable auxiliary. But the greatest expense of all, next to that of supporting the missionaries themselves, in a well conducted mission, will be for training and supporting helpers in the various grades of a native agency; and the series of measures for rearing this agency being once commenced, it is essentially progressive, and with increasing cost. Any violent curtailment here, is at great sacrifice and loss—as in the well-known case in the Ceylon mission, in the year 1837.

The history of many of our missions might be adduced in illustration and proof of the essentially progressive nature of the missions and of their expenditures, whether regarded individually, or in their collective capacity as a system of missions; but the mission most to our purpose is that at the Sandwich Islands, as being in some respects the most advanced.

This mission commenced its existence in the year 1820, with seven families; and so remarkable was the grace of God seen in its outset, that, in three years, it was necessary to send seven more families, and, in the year 1827, six others. Since that time, thirty-four families have been added, in five companies. Meanwhile there have been deaths and removals, and the present number of families is forty. Yet this increase of the force of the mission was scarcely sufficient to meet the demands of the great awakening in 1837-8-9, one of the most remarkable recorded in the annals of the church.

This necessary increase in the number of missionaries occasioned a gradually accumulating expenditure, which was the greater from the necessity of erecting a house for each family to dwell in. The printing establishment began its operations the year after the commencement of the mission, and, without ever meeting the demands of the native mind, scarcely in any one period, has thrown off a hundred millions of pages. Its expenses in 1837, exceeded \$6,500. It has also required the erection of buildings for its use, more safe, durable, and costly, than the mud and thatch of the native houses. The great prevalence of common schools is obvious from the fact of one-third part of the inhabitants being able to read; and though the cost of their schools, such as they were, has been borne chiefly by the natives, the mission has in some years found it necessary to pay nearly a thousand dollars in this department. The desire of the people for public worship on the Sabbath, has been such that they have themselves erected the meeting-houses, that are found in almost every district; but, from the nature of the case, the buildings for the boarding-schools or seminaries, and the annual cost of these institutions, have come almost wholly upon the mission. The rise in the annual expenditure of this mission, during the twenty years past, has been from \$5,000 to \$35,000, or seven fold; and yet its expenditure has generally been graduated on the most moderate scale compatible with the healthful existence of the mission, and is now too low for the noon-tide and crisis of our operations there.

What if there had been the like progress, during the same time, in all our other missions? In fact, our present indebtedness may be attributed to the inevitable increase of expenditure inherent in a system of missions such as we have undertaken to prosecute, viewed in connection with the want of a corresponding increase in the receipts.

That the actual expenditure at the Sandwich Islands has been at a stand since 1837, proves nothing against the principle we are endeavoring to establish, because that is wholly the effect of constraint. The mission is allowed to expend no more than \$35,000 annually, and has only that sum to divide among its several instrumentalities. It needs several thousand dollars more to facilitate the training of a native ministry for the native churches. Neither can the actual expenditures of any of the missions of the Board of late years invalidate our reasoning, because they have all been under limitation, and a limitation which is in general determined more by the amount of receipts, than by the actual necessities of the missions; and the Prudential Committee have been obliged to use the utmost extent of their influence to induce the missions to keep, at all events, within their limits. This often does great violence to the feelings of the missionaries, who, while they see and confess the necessity, are deeply grieved at the amount of good thus annually sacrificed. Indeed, when the pressure was first resolutely applied, in the memorable year 1837, there were missionaries who could scarcely bring themselves to submit to it, such violence did it inflict upon those onward tendencies, which God has been pleased to make inherent in the constitution of christian missions.

There is, therefore, a period in our missions, longer or shorter, in which, if they suffer no violence, their results and expenditures both may be expected to increase regularly; and this increase of expenditure, resulting directly from the grace of God, is the essential condition of the prosperity of the mission. The rapidity of the increase varies indefinitely. The fields of labor are intrinsically different. The missionaries differ in spirituality, capacity, and enterprise. Enemies oppose. The progress of events is hindered by the scantiness of the support afforded. But, in view of all that is revealed to us by the word and providence of the Most High, it seems like a waste of influence to prosecute missions among the heathen on any other principle, than that of a gradually increasing advancement in their expenditure until we have passed the crisis in our work. It is painful to think of the sacrifice there has

been in not a few of our missions, for some years past, owing to the want of pecuniary ability to employ the results (which was the way to take care of them) as the means of farther progress. There has been loss in very many of the missions, and at almost every stage of our progress. Our actual advance has indeed been far less than it might have been, with the same number of missionaries, had we had ample funds, with grace at home, and a corresponding grace on the part of the missions, to manage them wisely. The missions, for six years past, have been in the condition of very poor families; many of them, too, just in that stage of progress when the welfare of a whole generation seemed to depend on having more means.

While, however, we guard against too great a number of missions, there is danger on the other hand. If there be not a considerable number and variety in the missions, the hold upon the interest of the community will not be sufficiently uniform and strong. We must be prepared for the alternation of clouds and sunshine.

Experience has not yet thrown a strong light upon the question, how long the expenditures of a mission must be on the ascending series. Should the work be prosecuted with vigor in the oriental churches, and among the Druzes, it would seem that this series will not there embrace a great number of years; though it will be long before we shall find it expedient to divert the current of our charities wholly from that quarter. In pagan nations, much will depend on the degree of civilization. In point of fact, these pay much in support of their idolatrous worship; and the converts should be taught that, as Christians, they are bound to aid in supporting the worship of the true God. If this point has not been sufficiently urged upon native converts by missionaries, it has probably been because they have yet had no native ministry to ordain as pastors of the native churches. At the Sandwich Islands, the books printed by the mission have generally been sold to the people, though frequently at a price little more than nominal; and in the process of printing and binding the books, natives have been taught those arts. The people have been assisted to some extent in building school-houses, and in supporting their common schools; but this ought not much longer to be necessary. One or two of the smaller boarding-schools are already supported by the native churches. As soon as there are natives qualified to be put in charge of the churches, those churches will naturally come into that relation to the Board, which churches in our new settlements sustain to the Home Missionary Society. And just here, we suppose, will be the turning point in our expenditures, from the ascending to the descending series. Our missions will not need then to be any longer re-inforced; but the superintendence of the native churches and of the other christian institutions may be left to the veteran brethren, whom the Lord shall have spared to see that day. This is on the presumption, that the people of the islands will remain independent of other powers and retain their present hold upon their lands. It will be many years after this period, however, before the Board can withdraw all its missionaries, or cease wholly to make grants to the higher institutions of learning on the islands, and to aid the Domestic Missionary and Education Societies the people may be supposed to have formed; or before their Bible, Tract, and Sabbath School Societies will cease to ask for aid from the similar institutions in this country. But, should no disastrous influences disturb the course of events, the sums granted will not be large, and will gradually diminish as the religious principles and habits of the islanders shall gain strength. And what has been said of the Sandwich Islands, will serve to illustrate the probable course of events in other portions of the heathen world.

What is the conclusion of the whole, in respect to our position, our prospects, and our duty, as an association in charge of the business of conducting foreign missions?

Our *position* is that of a society having twenty-six missions in widely distant parts of the world, most of which are in such progress, as to render additional expenditures indispensable to securing their results; and in some of them, owing to the extraordinary nature of their progress, the expenditures will need to be considerable. If the advance of the missions be as great in seven years to come, as it has been in the seven years past, \$400,000, if not half a million, will be needed then, as much as \$300,000 are now.

In contemplating our *prospects*, it is encouraging to know that \$300,000 seemed as large a sum to be raised for the missions of the Board, seven years ago, as half a million does now, and the community appeared less able and willing to give; and this shows a progress of ideas and sentiments in relation to the missionary work, and to the ability to sustain it. But can the amount necessary for this purpose be contributed by the community without a painful sacrifice? And is there reason to hope it will be contributed? These inquiries have already been considered by another.

The *duty* of the Board will be matter of inference from the amount of means placed at its disposal. The wasteful policy of keeping missions on an inadequate allowance ought, on no account, to be persisted in; nor will an enlightened religious community constrain to the discontinuance of the more recent missions, in order to have the means of sustaining those that are older and more advanced.

The committee to whom were committed the two documents given above, afterward made the following report through their chairman.

That they entirely concur with the Prudential Committee in the views by them expressed. That the nature of the work of missions to the heathen is essentially progressive; and for a time, therefore, must demand increased expenses; and that when uncivilized nations first receive the gospel, it is not to be expected that they will be able to sustain the institutions of the gospel immediately, without assistance from abroad; and thus the very successes with which Providence has favored us, must, for a time, be the means of additional expense. And if the gospel is to fill the whole earth by means of human instrumentality, the means used for the purpose must continue to be enlarged more and more, until the churches feel the full import of the command, Go, preach the gospel to every creature.

A question then arises connected with these remarks, of great importance to the operations of this Board, whether the churches connected with this Board are willing and able to furnish the means to meet the increased demand, which the progressive nature of this work may require.

As to the ability of the churches, the Committee are of opinion that the friends of the cause are able to meet the increased demand to the extent required by the progressive nature of this work.

By this, however, we do not mean to say that all our churches can be expected to do more than they have done the current year; on the other hand we feel bound to say, that some of them have this year made efforts which they will not probably exceed in the succeeding years, although we hope much and believe much in the continued exertions of these churches. At the same time we think that there yet remains much land to be possessed in the midst of us. We fear that the wants of the heathen world are yet very imperfectly understood by many of our christian brethren; and if they are sometimes awakened by the cry of a pressure and great danger, yet they are not aware of and do not provide for the continued supply which the wants of a dying world demand.

One of the most important means, therefore, in which the increase of the funds of the Board for a time is to be expected, is, by diffusing light and life to a class of the christian community, which has as yet hardly been reached.

Every christian ought to know and feel that he can do something in this holy cause, if no more than the widow, who cast in her two mites. Every such person will feel a new interest in the subject, and that he is personally concerned, and will in some way become more and more useful.

But to create any such interest as the Prudential Committee here recommend, information as to the situation and wants of the heathen world must be diffused. And how is this information to be communicated? Many are even without a religious newspaper. They will never know the wants of the heathen, and seldom have any enlarged sense of duty, except such as they derive from their pastors. To them the church look for light upon this as well as other subjects connected with their spiritual interest, and are generally warm and active in the cause or not, as their pastors are.

And while we are satisfied that the most that has been accomplished in this cause has been done by means of enlightened zealous pastors, yet there is reason to fear that there are some who feel themselves too little interest in the cause, or who are afraid to disturb their churches by calling upon them to give to distant heathen.

The number of such, we trust, is few, and the sums kept back by their means small, compared with the loss arising from the want of a proper organization in many churches, by which all the members might be reached. Until this is done we can never know the strength of the churches, nor what can be effected. It is by similar organizations that such large collections have been made by some religious denominations in very small sums from each individual.

To effect the object then in view, it is the opinion of this Committee that no better mode can be taken, than that recommended in one of the communications referred to us, and it is to be hoped that every pastor will endeavor, in such way as he shall judge most suitable, to see that every member of his church shall be informed of the missionary operations in the world, and be duly impressed with the importance of doing something to advance the work, and thus see that each individual shall have opportunity to give according to his ability to this holy cause.

By a complete organization, as recommended by the Prudential Committee, many churches will come up to the work which now do nothing, and many individuals in other churches will cast in their money into the treasury of the Lord, who now give nothing, except by accident.

It is also to be expected that additional aid may be annually derived from the churches formed and forming in the west. And if, in the ensuing season, the God of missions shall, as we hope, visit our churches with the effusions of his Holy Spirit, there will be no reason to fear, either the ability or the willingness of the churches, to meet the claims which the progressive nature of missions require.

MEMORIAL FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN GREENWICH, N. Y.

A memorial signed by the pastor, deacons, and clerk of the church in Greenwich, Washington county, New York, relating to receiving to the treasury of the Board, donations from holders of slaves, and other kindred topics, was read by Dr. Armstrong.

On motion of the Rev. Henry G. Ludlow, the following resolution was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the memorialists in behalf of the Congregational Church in Greenwich, N. Y., in regard to the relation which this Board is supposed to sustain to slavery, be respectfully referred to the report on the same general

subject, made by a select committee at the annual meeting of the Board, in September last, and adopted; and that, in view of that report, the Board see no cause to take further action on the subject at this time.

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

The preamble and the first and second of the resolutions offered by the chairman of the Prudential Committee (page 12) having been adopted, the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, the second day of the meeting, were spent in offering special thanksgiving and praise to God, in view of his goodness to the Board and the missions, especially since the late annual meeting, in relieving to so great an extent, the embarrassment then existing, occasioned by inadequate pecuniary resources, and affording such encouragement that his people would sustain the missionary work in its onward progress. Prayers were offered by the Rev. Drs. Joel Parker, Spring, DeWitt, Cox, and Tucker; and pertinent addresses were made by a number of pastors, mentioning the indications in their respective churches of a livelier and more pervading interest in the work of evangelizing the world; also by the Rev. Justin Perkins, first missionary of the Board to the Nestorians of Persia; by Mar Yohannan, a Nestorian bishop; Rev. Prof. Goodrich, and Dr. Parker, missionary to China.

PROBABILITY OF A STEADY INCREASE OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Most of the day and evening of Thursday were occupied in statements and remarks, principally from pastors, on the question,—*Whether there is good reason to believe that the christian community will furnish the means for that onward movement of the system of missions in which the Board is engaged, which the providence of God gives us reason to expect?*

That the pastors and other members of the Board present from different parts of the country might have opportunity and be induced to express their opinions on the questions, they were called upon by States. Representatives being present from all the New England States, from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, responded to the question. Most of them were understood to express the opinion that a gradual and steady increase of the contributions from the christian community might be calculated upon, and that it would be safe for the Board to conduct its operations in expectation of such an increase. A number expressed fears that the contributions for some years subsequent would not be so large as those which were likely to come into the treasury the current year, and that no great increase could be confidently anticipated for some years to come.

From all parts of the country represented, most encouraging evidence was furnished that the missionary work is rising in the estimation and in the affections of the people of God; that its importance and obligatoriness are more felt, and a more lively and practical interest in it is manifested, than in former years; that ministers and

laymen are regarding it more than heretofore as a business for which they are personally concerned and accountable, and for the accomplishment of which there must be calculation and effort and self-denial; that the work must not be intermitted or delayed, but is to be extended, as the providence of God shall open the nations, and be carried forward with system and energy in some measure consummate with its greatness and urgent nature, and with constant reference to its full accomplishment at no very distant day.

The necessity of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to any successful effort for the universal spread of the gospel, seemed, to an unusual degree, to occupy the minds of those who addressed the Board during its sessions.

That revivals of religion are indispensable to the vigorous prosecution of the missionary work, seemed also to be felt and appreciated by all. The churches which sustain this cause need it for their enlargement and quickening, to increase their faith and their devotion to the work. The missionaries and the mission churches need it. It is needed by the impenitent and unbelieving at home and abroad, that they may be raised from their spiritual death. In this view of the subject it was that the last two resolutions inserted on page 12th were proposed and unanimously adopted by the Board, that the friends of missions might be induced to unite in earnest and persevering prayer for such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit as should result in a great and general revival of religion both at home and abroad.

Near the close of the statements from the pastors, the third resolution on page 12th was adopted.

The meeting was continued through two sessions on the afternoon and evening of Tuesday, the 18th, and three sessions on each of the two following days. Besides the afternoon and evening of the second day, which were devoted to religious services, the sessions were opened with prayers by Rev. Dr. Codman, Rev. Messrs. Magie, Barnes, and Walker, Rev. Dr. Skinner, and Rev. Mr. Aiken; and after singing the hymn, "Blest be the tie that binds," &c. the meeting was closed with prayer and the apostolical benediction by Rev. Mr. Bardwell.

After passing the usual votes of thanks to the church and congregation, the choir of singers, and the families, whose hospitality and aid the members and friends of the Board had enjoyed on the occasion, the meeting was adjourned at the close of the evening of Thursday the 20th.

MISSIONS OF THE BOARD.

The following facts are taken from the "Historical View of the Missions of the Board," that was read at the special meeting, but is not printed in this account of the proceedings.

EXTENT OF THE SYSTEM OF OPERATIONS.

The origin of the foreign missionary enterprise in this country should never be forgotten. It was like the little cloud seen from the top of Carmel. No fact in the religious history of the country is better authenticated, or more remarkable, than that, at the outset, neither the Board, nor its Prudential Committee, nor any of the leading minds in the American churches at that time, could see the way clear for raising funds enough to support the four young men, who were waiting to be sent forth to the heathen world. And when, after a fruitless effort to get the promise of pecuniary aid from England, in case it should be necessary, those men were sent forth, it was without being designated by the Committee to any specific field. There was not then the hundredth part of the knowledge of the heathen world in the American churches, that there is now, and the comparative claims of the different portions of it was a subject then but little understood. The first missionaries were left to decide what field to occupy after their arrival in India. Their Instructions were dated February 7, 1812.

The number of missions now existing under the care of this Board is 26. These embrace 86 stations. The number of ordained missionaries now in the field is 143, and of lay helpers of different descriptions 45, and of female helpers enough to increase the number to 392. To these add about 150 native helpers, who have been trained on the ground by the missions and are supported by the funds of the Board, and the number of present laborers swells to 542.

The mission schools contain 24,500 youth, of whom somewhat more than 1,000 are boarding scholars, in schools where the leading object is to train up a native ministry. Five hundred are in seminaries designed exclusively for males, where the course of study is as extensive as it can be while the languages of the several countries where they exist are no better furnished with works of sound literature and science.

Fifteen printing establishments are at work in as many missions, and in 31 languages, exclusive of the English, spoken by 450,000,000 of people.

The missions are in western and southern Africa, Greece, Constantinople, Asia Minor, Syria, Koordistan, Persia, western and southern India, Ceylon, Siam, China, the Indian Archipelago, the Sandwich Islands, Oregon, the Indian territory west and northwest of the United States, and among the remnants of the Six Nations on the shore of Lake Erie.

PROGRESS MADE IN THE WORK.

All that was said to shew the extent of the field, is an indication of progress made in the work. But more should be said, to the praise of God's grace.

The whole number of laborers sent from this country during the past thirty years, is 771, or, including the native helpers now employed, it is 921. In general the text-books of the schools have been prepared by the missionaries, and a great progress, on the whole, has been made in this department; especially in translating the Scriptures, and in geography, arithmetic, geometry, sacred history, and the first principles of religion and morals.

Scarcely less than 300,000,000 of pages have been printed in the 31 languages; 13 of which were first reduced to writing by the missionaries of the Board. Not less than 80,000 persons have had portions of the Bible put into their hands, and been taught to read them by the missionaries. How far mind has been awakened from the profound listlessness of heathenism, called off from sensual and grovelling to intellectual enjoyments, and furnished with the treasures of science, thought, and refined christian sentiment, is known only to Him who knoweth all things; but the value of the results must be beyond conception great.

The amount of printing in our own country by the Board, in furtherance of its objects, during the *twenty* years past, is nearly or quite 200,000,000 of pages;—not including reports, addresses, and appeals published by auxiliary societies; nor upwards of thirty volumes of biography, missionary history, travels, researches, etc.; or more than twice or thrice that number, if we include books for Sabbath schools; which have grown directly out of its operations.

Fifty-nine churches have been gathered among the heathen, containing nearly 20,000 members. The spiritual fruits of the missions to the oriental churches, are of course not included in this number, such not having been gathered into distinct and separate churches; the effort having been hitherto to infuse the spirit of the gospel into those religious communities as they are.

Through the blessing of God on the cheerful and cordial concurrence of the community, there have also been effected extensive systematic organizations for diffusing intelligence and raising funds at home; and a credit has been gained for the institution in the commercial world, which is of inestimable value in facilitating the support of the missions in so many widely remote parts of the world.

