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AN
ADDRESS
OF THE
MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE
STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS,

THE present is an eventful period of the World. Noble efforts are making to spread the Gospel of our adorable Redeemer. The bright beams of immortal life shine more and more. The Eternal God awakens by his grace, believers of every denomination to spread the great truths of his Everlasting Gospel, in various ways, and by different instruments, amongst the Nations of the Earth.

Among the blessed instruments of his Mercy, Missionaries hold a conspicuous place. Leaving their homes, and the sweet enjoyments of domestic life, they go in search of distressed and wandering pilgrims to guide them to their Saviour, the great source of their spiritual consolation and joy. Clothed with authority from Christ, they proclaim the Gospel of Peace; they carry with them the symbols of his love, and sooth the sorrows of the weeping peni-

tent by pointing to him, Heaven, by exhibiting to his view the glories of the Cross. How blessed the message! How honorable the messenger! How welcome to the Children of the Redeemer, dispersed throughout every land! How many dear brethren, members of the Church of Christ, are now scattered, and far removed from the enjoyments and blessings of our Social Worship and ordinances, who call loudly on us to remember them with sympathy!

There is no Church whose members are so much distressed. There are no members who stand more in need of the Gospel and Ordinances of Christ. What is now the State of Religion in the Church of North-Carolina? Is Christianity gaining or losing ground? Does the Church which the Son of God purchased with his blood, still retain her numbers? Or are not her numbers wofully decreased? And is not her spirit bowed down and sunk? The most inattentive observer among the followers of Christ cannot but see, and lament over her "solitary places;" cannot but shed a tear in contemplating her as once flourishing and prosperous, but now decayed and dilapidated.

With a view to remedy this lamentable state of things, and correct the deplorable moral evils that have resulted from it, the present Society has been instituted. Its object is, to send into the destitute parts of this State, pious and devout Ministers of the Church, to give comfort and aid, instruction and consolation to the members of her Zion dispersed in almost every section. What incalculable benefits might not two or three Missionaries confer, in a few years, on every corner of this State? And who is there that will not give his exertions for so laudable an object? Who that will not strive to redeem

from destruction the Churches in which our fathers delighted to Worship? Who that will not endeavour to recover to religion and to piety, those whom the want of spiritual instruction may have rendered indifferent to their souls salvation? The tendency of the present state of things is, to overspread the land with darkness. Where the law of God is not publickly read and explained, it must necessarily every day lose some portion of its authority and influence; and the awful sanctions by which it is enforced, if they be not entirely forgotten, must come to be regarded, first with indifference, and then with contempt. Wretched indeed is the condition of a people among whom the light of the Gospel has long ceased to shine. And where has this light suffered a more total eclipse than in that portion of the Church in this State, whose vitality this Society is particularly intended to resuscitate?

We ask you then, fellow Christians, with confidence—was your assistance ever solicited for purposes more clearly meritorious, and, we may add, for objects more certainly practicable? Is it not highly desirable to raise from the dust the Church of our fathers, to collect together her dispersed members, and to pour into the hearts of her desponding sons and daughters the beams of consolation and joy? Did we plead for the preservation of the poor from the distressing effects of famine, you would lend us an ear of compassion. How much more then will your pity be excited for the Salvation of Souls? If you feel a Christian love for your fellow beings, we beseech you to manifest its sincerity by co-operating in a measure which affords the prospect of turning many to righteousness, & of saving their souls from condemnation. Do you

not acknowledge the duty which the Apostle enjoins, of doing good to all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith? Permit us then to ask in what way can you do a more important or a more lasting good, than by contributing to this fund, which will enable the Society to repair the decays of the Church; and to enlarge the number of her faithful shepherds. Shepherds who will gather together the wandering flocks of Christ; establish their folds; feed them plenteously with the bread of life; lead them forth to fountains of living water; and, in fine, conduct them to the bright mansions of eternal felicity.

CONSTITUTION

Of the Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in North-Carolina.

Article 1. This Society shall be known by the name or title of the Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church of North-Carolina.

2. There shall be an annual meeting of this Society, on the second Thursday after Easter, at the place at which the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of North-Carolina for that year may be held.

3. The Officers of this Society shall be, a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, Treasurer, and a board of Managers.

4. It shall be the duty of the President to preside in the meetings of the society, and to call special meetings of the same.

5. The Vice-Presidents, by seniority, shall in the absence, or at the request of the President perform the duties of President.

6. The secretary shall keep a record of the trans-



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