

gentleness that was seen in hospitals was linked in that way with Christianity, but they might even claim that indirectly, in the secret way in which it loved to work, Christianity had done more than could be easily measured for the advance of medical science. He took it that the insight which guided the physician, and a great deal of the knowledge which he employed, a great deal of *that* could not have been won but for the tenderness and sympathy, and patience with which Christianity had taught the people to watch and wait upon the sick. It was the spirit of Christianity very largely, he believed, that had turned sickness into that teaching power which had helped forward all knowledge, and certainly not least, medical science. So that, he thought, not only because of the charity that was exercised there, but because of the knowledge and power that was shown, that they might claim the foremost place for Christianity in relation to hospital work.

THE COMMERCIAL VALUE OF MISSIONS.



BRITISH Parliamentary committee reported, after investigation, that Christian Foreign Missions returned commercially to Great Britain ten pounds sterling for every pound contributed by Christian people to organize and carry them on. If the gain would have been pound for pound only, that would have been 100 per cent. Therefore ten for one is 1,000 per cent. But this does not cover the case. The writer has examined commercial conditions when visiting some of the leading centres of northern Africa and western Asia, and was satisfied that every dollar expended by Americans for Christian missions in those countries returned \$100. This trade is so important a part of the life of capital and labor in our country that if it were suddenly withdrawn it would create the greatest financial panic the world ever saw.

A further case in point, and one for which there are pretty exact figures available for comparison, is Hawaii. No country in the world is more essentially a child of missions than Hawaii. As such it is essentially a child of the great republic. Our trade with that country, through the one port of San Francisco, every year exceeds in amount the entire cost of missions that created the country in over seventy years of that American mission work. This is in addition to our trade there around Cape Horn and over the Indian ocean. Surely here is pretty clear and vigorous proof that if, "the heathen are at our doors," Foreign Missions are, notwithstanding, a splendid investment on the ground floor. Similar figures apply to

investments in Home Missions. The writer, a son of a western Home missionary on our frontier, had some experience there as a dealer in real estate. His experience and observation satisfied him that evangelical Home Missions were the chief factors of great and permanent increase in values of farm lands and of city lots, of current business, and of safety of person and property. The real estate value and the business of which the little Home mission church was at once the creator, and the centre and the security, was fully a hundred-fold greater than the cost of the church which was such centre and security. Here, then, is 10,000 per cent. Another town and its surrounding country might have greater advantages than the mission-centred town, have better soil and outside communication, more timber and water, but it would be outstripped by the Christian settlement. The men with the cash and conscience and culture to make them desirable settlers would be drawn where the missions, with their correlated influences and interests were the magnet. This, too, though many of such settlers were not churchmen of any denomination. The mission may have cost only a few hundred dollars a year, but it added hundreds of thousands to the material interests around it.

Similar ratios apply to investments in city missions. Ground occupied by pestilent pauper and criminal-filled tenements, and renting for fifty cents a week, soon after a mission is planted in their midst has houses that pay from five to ten-fold that rate. Factories are located there that pay prices for building lots that would have been thought fabulous when the police were not sustained by the conscience-creating city mission. The quantity and quality of dry goods and groceries, etc., sold there are so improved that the local merchant disposes of from ten to a hundred times as much as he did before. He is also far more sure of pay and prompt pay. All this time the poor little mission, which is the engine driving on these worldly gains, has cost, perhaps less than \$1,000 per year. If it has had eight or ten years for its righteous roots to take hold, it is adding \$1,000 a week to real estate and business interests. . . . The day has passed when men can truthfully say they "can't afford" to pay for these things. They cannot afford to fail to pay for them. They are, all and singular, such ground-floor investments respecting ratios of net returns as no one can find on the exchanges of London or New York. All the histories of gold mines and diamond fields, of pearl fisheries, or the wildest real estate or stock speculations, are tame beside these ground-floor investments. They are the only efficient anchors of national life or of business prosperity, and the only sound and permanent cure for "hard times."—*At Home and Abroad*