

Perhaps some one will say—What strange indifference, and want of enthusiasm in a foreign missionary! No, it is not; for if you are ready to go wherever God calls you, He will call you to Trinidad if you are needed there, and you will be prepared to go, and face the difficulties like men. If, on the other hand, He should call you to home work, He will make you useful and happy in it. And in an indirect way you will even then advance the cause of Foreign Missions, for useful and happy home-ministers all believe in and promote work among the heathen. The work in the foreign field is far too serious to be undertaken on the impulse of the moment, when one is carried away by some powerful address, or after but a few hours consideration. It requires ripened determination. I would not so belittle the work as to say to any of you: "Decide now to engage in it." On the contrary, I say "Count the cost;" for, unless God Himself recalls you, you should enlist for life. So far as retreating at your own will is concerned, you should burn your boats, or break down the bridge behind you.

It may nevertheless be the duty of some of you to go,—to face every risk, endure every hardship and thus save your own life, and the souls of many who are now perishing. There may be no escape for you from this issue. God calling and helping you, it may be the lightest burden you can carry, a plain path before you. The thought that you are called to this work may even now flash through the mind of some of you, and if so, it is your duty to entertain it, to give it place for germination if there be vitality in it, and then to await Divine direction. If it is God's call, He will ripen the determination and open the way. If the way is providentially shut, enter the first open door and till the nearest neglected field.

God may indicate in various ways that your work is at home: if he does so, settle at home, get your manse, marry and be happy. But, if you wish your happiness to continue, do not isolate yourself and your congregation from the world-wide sympathies which the love of Christ implants. Beware of congregational or provincial selfishness. Take broad views of the Redeemer's kingdom and impart the same to your people. Then, though absent in body from the foreign field, you will not be able to close a prayer without finding yourself there in spirit. Your hearts will grow large enough to pity the whole human family, and will swell with desires for the salvation of all nations, and burst forth in prayers for all Christian efforts. And thus you will help and cheer us.

Perhaps some one in looking forward to the foreign field as that in which he will probably spend his life, may ask: "What *special* preparation ought I to make?" Not much that is *special*. All that is good for foreign work is good also for work at home. Piety, common sense, self-