

for such a statement, but it shows a weak spot in the general subject of preparation for mission work as handled to-day. If a man is slow to acquire language, let him go to some Home Mission field, or to some country where they use a language cognate with our own, or some offshoot of the Latin. There is splendid work to be done in Spain and Italy and among the Spanish speaking peoples of Southern and Central America. But let no one think that simply because he has not studied foreign languages, he has no linguistic power; it does not necessarily follow. Don't give up the darker continents unless you are pretty sure that your linguistic power is beneath the average.

There is one thing more. Before leaving home for a mission field make one determination, and pray over it and place it deep in your heart, so that it cannot be changed; and that is, that whatever shall happen, however you shall be tempted to do otherwise, you will never allow yourself to be drawn into misunderstandings with other men on the field; that you will always be conciliatory; that you will go more than half way to meet any one who differs with you in regard to ways and means and methods, unless some great principle is at stake. That you will always put the very best construction on the acts and words of your co-laborers that you possibly can. But what are the reasons for the necessity of great carefulness in this particular? In the first place, a young man starts for his field with his heart brim full of enthusiasm, and with a good many plans laid as to his methods of work; and it is often very difficult to give up those plans, although they may conflict with plans that are already being carried out in the same field. It tends to dampen his enthusiasm when he finds that the older and wiser heads tell him that his plans, although theoretically excellent, will not work when put in actual operation. This is likely to be one cause of difference of opinion. It must be remembered in the second place, that the relations of missionaries in the same field are very different from those of any set of men at home. A dozen men or more, thoroughly in earnest, with ideas of their own, each feeling the weight of responsibility resting on his shoulders, and each having an equal voice in the management of the work and of the funds which are appropriated—in these circumstances, I say it would not be strange if each man should feel the importance of his own special work, and fail to appreciate that every other man's work is as important as his own. This, also, is a cause of difficulty at times.

There is one other thing which ought not to need mentioning, and yet which the history of missions warrants the mention of, and any young man who contemplates foreign mission work needs to bear it in mind. The young man or woman entering the foreign field must not go expecting to make a mark in the world. He or she must be willing to be forgotten so far as the public at large is concerned. Of