

## A BIRD'S MINISTRY.

"It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord."

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."

From his home in an Eastern bungalow  
In sign of the everlasting snow  
Of the grand Himalayas, row on row,  
Thus wrote my friend: "I had traveled far,  
From the African towers of Candahar,  
Through the sand-white plains of Sindh-Sagar;  
And once when the daily march was o'er,  
As tired I sat in my tented door,  
Hope failed me as it never failed before.  
In swarming city, at wayside fane,  
By the Indus bank, on the scorching plain,  
I had taught; and my teaching had all seemed vain.  
"No glimmer of light," I sighed, "appears:  
The Moslem's fate and the Buddhist's fears  
Have loomed their worship this thousand years.  
For Christ and His truth I stand alone  
In the midst of millions: a sand-grain blown  
Against yon temple made of stone  
As soon may level it!" Faith forsook  
My soul, as I turned on the pile to look:  
Then, rising, my saddened way I took  
To its lofty roof in the cooler air.  
I gazed and marvelled—how crumbled were  
The walls I had deemed so firm and fair!  
For, wedged in a rift of massive stone,  
Most plainly reft by its roots alone,  
A beautiful peepul-tree had grown,  
Whose gradual stress would still expand  
The crevice, and topple upon the sand  
The temple; while o'er its wreck should stand  
The tree in its living verdure. Who  
Could compass the thought? The bird that flew  
Hitherward, dropping a seed that grew  
Did more to shiver this ancient wall  
Than earthquake, war, simoon, or all  
The centuries in their lapse and fall.  
Then I knelt by the riven granite there,  
And my soul shook off its weight of care,  
As my voice rose clear in the tropic air:  
"The living seeds I have dropped remain  
In the cleft; Lord, quicken with dew and rain  
Then temple and mosque shall be rent in twain."  
—Helping.

## INTEREST IN MISSIONS.

Interest in missions depends largely on one's knowledge of the need of missions, of their ability to meet that need, and of their certainty to do it. And this depends largely on one's faith in the Divine authenticity, the authority and truthfulness of the Scriptures.

Thus, when the desponding secretary of the American Baptist Missionary Union wrote to Judson, asking him what the missionary prospects were in India, he answered, "As bright as the promises of God." It took long years of toil and waiting, of hope deferred and much discouragement, followed with mighty displays of Divine power and grace in India to convince others of what Judson saw afar off by faith in the promises. To Judson it was enough that Christ commanded, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature," "Go, and make disciples of all the nations." For had not God said, "My word shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Henry Martyn once said, "If I ever see a Hindu a real believer in Jesus, I shall see something approaching the resurrection of a dead body." To-day 600,000 native Protestant Christians in India are witnesses of the power of the Gospel. What India will be depends largely on the believing obedience of God's people."

That was a beautiful saying of Mr. Scott, our missionary candidate, ordained at Bloor Street Church, May 7th, at his examination for the ministry: "I feel that God's call to me is to carry the Gospel, as far as Providence permits, to those who need it most."

The same thing was well illustrated by Mr. Chalmers, the missionary martyr of New Guinea. In referring to his "cannibal friends" in the Namau District, he says, "They killed eleven Maipians lately, and left nothing but their bones; we must get among them as soon as possible."

## SUCCESS OF MISSIONS.

At the beginning of this century, four-fifths of the people were without the Bible in their language. To-day it is printed partially or entirely, in over 425 languages and dialects. More copies of the Scripture were printed in the year 1900 than were in existence in all the world in 1800. To-day, if nine-tenths of the people of the world could read, they would have access to God's word in their own tongue. No one can estimate what this means; what it has meant of hardship, toil, danger, energy, faith, love and perseverance on the part of hundreds of faithful language students, and what it has