

by embracing which, I may within two or three months be on my way to India—as I judge from facts officially stated, your Board are not prepared to send even a single missionary within so short a time. But had you the requisite funds there would still be an insuperable difficulty. If I mistake not, you have recorded on the Minutes of the Convention of 1850, or 1851, a resolution passed while the mind of the denomination was deeply impressed with sad reflection occasioned by the return from India of your late lamented missionary, to the effect, that you should never again venture to send out less than two missionaries. A resolution, the wisdom of which all must freely admit, who reflect at all upon the grave responsibility connected with missionary operations carried on at so great a distance from an advising Board. Now you have in your service no second missionary, nor is it at all likely one could be secured in a shorter period than one year at least. Were the Board willing to re-consider that resolution, and try again the experiment which so sadly and signally failed in the first instance, of sending one man to bear alone all the responsibility of establishing an independant mission, I should feel it my duty with the more correct knowledge which I now possess of the nature of such an undertaking to decline accepting such an appointment. This then is one reason why I wish to be dismissed from your service.

Again—There is, I presume, in your Board a decided feeling in favour of combination of effort with the English Board. But even if such a scheme were perfectly agreeable to my own views, I should still find myself compelled to wait for some length of time until your treasury was sufficiently replenished to enable you to enter actively into such a combination. But besides this, owing to my long cherished desires to labour in Burmah, I should not feel at liberty to become connected with such an arrangement.

Once more—If you had at your service two missionaries, if your treasury was full at the present moment, and you felt assured that there would never be any lack for the support of two missionaries, still are you prepared to say that you have resources to meet the growing demand of a new mission? Have you as a Board the knowledge and experience, have our Churches as a Denomination the knowledge and substance which is requisite to sustain in vigorous and efficient action an entirely independant mission? Allow me with the same spirit of respect and deference with which I suggested these questions, to answer that I do not think you have.

It was this conviction that led me to encourage the hope that you would judge a connection with the American Union for a time at least, to be desirable.

Such, then, are the reasons that have led me to ask a dismissal from your service. I know not how they may appear to you. I am conscious that they are to myself satisfactory.

Being assured of respect and warmest desire for the prosperity of your Board,

I subscribe myself most truly yours,

ARTHUR CRAWLEY

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