

are all more or less the results of the influence of missionary agency.

A similar result is acknowledged in the advancement of science.

Christian missionaries have held a prominent part in making important geographical discoveries, and in reducing many unwritten languages to writing. It is a striking coincidence that the prize which the infidel Voltaire established for the study of African languages was awarded a few years ago to the missionary Koelle.

Still far beyond these benefits are the untold spiritual blessings conferred, which no pen could really write. The record of various missionary societies is a record of Christian triumph which has never been surpassed since the foundation of the Church of Christ.

Surely in these truths and many more I have not mentioned we find an answer to the question, Have missions been a failure? and surely we can find sufficient encouragement to help carry on this grand and noble work. But notwithstanding this wonderful work and progress, notwithstanding all the suffering there has been, all the sacrifice that has been made, and the wonderful results of all this, as a writer on the subject has said, "the work is only beginning, and we have barely touched the fringe of it." And though, perhaps, over three million converts have been made in this century, it is said that the natural increase of the heathen world in that time has been 200,000,000. It is said there are 800,000,000 on our earth to whom the name of Jesus Christ is unknown, and that ten hundred and thirty million are not in any sense Christianized; of these 35,000,000 are passing every year into Christless graves. They are dying very fast; in China alone it is estimated that 1,400 die every hour, and that in one day 33,000 have passed beyond the reach of any human help, and if this meeting were to agree to send a missionary to China to-morrow, before he could reach Chinese shores one and a half million souls would have passed from this world into eternity. Nineteen centuries have passed away and only one-third of the population of our earth is even nominally Christian.

And there is more for us to think of than that these millions are passing into their graves without a hope in Christ. Think of the degraded lives of these poor heathen. Just let us glance at some of the horrors of such false faiths as Buddhism, Hinduism and Mohammedanism. How little we know how sin is enthroned and worshipped. There is sin and shame everywhere. Mohammedanism is corrupt to the very core, so of Buddhism. They reduce women to the very depths of degradation; the intellect is so dwarfed that a woman of thirty years is more like a child of eight intellectually; while all the worst passions of human nature are stimulated and developed in a fearful degree; jealousy, envy, hate, murder. These passions running to such an extent that one missionary says she has scarcely ever been in a woman's house without being asked for drugs with which to disfigure the favorite wife or to take away the life of the favorite wife's infant son. This is only an indication of the daily life of those of whose miseries we think so little. It follows necessarily, that there is also the lowest degradation of men. The whole continent of Asia is corrupt. It is the scene of barbarities, tortures, brutal punishments, oppression, corruption, which is worst under Mohammedan rule. There are no scantities of home, nothing to tell of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come. Then if we think of their sins let us think also of

their sorrows. Think of what sickness is to them. We think sickness a great trial and we dread the suffering; but if we are sick everything is done to alleviate our pain, we are surrounded by every kindness and attention that loving friends can bestow upon us. The most skillful physicians are employed; if we are too poor to have this attention at our home there are hospitals where everything that skill and money can do is provided for us, and if we are Christians "death has no sting and the grave no victory," 'tis hope and peace beyond. But to those in heathen lands how different; sickness is supposed to be the work of demons. The sick person becomes an object of loathing and terror, is put out of the house, is poorly fed and rarely visited, is subjected to horrible torture too dreadful even to think of. And this is only a glimpse of the sorrows of which we have all read and heard so many times, but which perhaps we still need to have brought to our minds, again and again. So notwithstanding the great work that has been done, we see there is still a greater work to do. Have we not been fully impressed with the great need of this work? And have we not had sufficient encouragement to make a greater effort than ever before? But have we not heathen near home? Will it not demand all our effort, all our sacrifice to Christianize them? And is it not our first duty to do so? If any man provide not for his own, specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel (1 Tim. 5: 8). Certainly it is our duty to provide for our own, but are they not all our own? Can we make any distinction between home and foreign missions? Do they not both run together? The members of our households go to foreign lands and foreigners come here. When Dr. John Hall was visiting in Scandinavia, he learned at the missionary meeting then in progress in Sweden, that in Wisconsin and Minnesota alone were 140 Scandinavian ministers laboring among their own countrymen, sent out by the mother churches of Sweden, and supported by their contributions until such time as the Scandinavians resident in this land could take care of their own pastors. The same distinguished clergyman coming out of the Yosemite valley tarried over night in a village where there might have been 1200 people and where there was no church of any denomination. So oppressed was he by the sight of such destitution that he went from house to house inviting the people to meet for worship, and himself addressed them. This is only an illustration, probably not a rare case. I do not doubt we could find many similar cases many miles nearer than Yosemite valley; but such facts as the above illustrate the kinship of all missionary work at home and abroad. Dr. Pentecost goes to India to evangelize English residents there. The heathen come to our shores. The Chinese and Japanese are here by thousands to learn our political system and our faith. If we do our duty we may here on this very soil grow the seed of the kingdom to be planted the whole world over. To evangelize our country, to leave no part to desolation and degradation, to abandon no class of the population to vice, crime, ignorance, infidelity and irreligion will be a means, blessed by the Lord, of sending into all the earth the sowers of the seed of the kingdom.

Surely we have been informed of and impressed with the greatness of the opportunity and emergency which confronts us. Is the opportunity not inspiring? and is it not possible for us to arise to the emergency? I think it is. We stand upon the verge of unparalleled victories for the kingdom of God if only every Christian will consecrate

their lives fully to God and his work. But if we do not do this, if our hearts are not filled with love for God and our fellowmen, we will lose our opportunity and likewise our blessing. Now which shall it be? Shall we put away every feeling of love and pity from our hearts that surely must arise there for our suffering fellowmen who have not been blessed with the light of the gospel as we have? We have often heard said, better leave them alone if they know not Christ, they will not be responsible. This is something we are not privileged to take into consideration. Even could we grant it, could we, with love in our hearts, leave them to the suffering, misery and degradation they are in for this life? Then there is God's command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature;" a command which, it seems to me, is just as binding as the one following, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned."

Now shall we not arise with love to God and our fellowmen, filling our hearts and make such an effort as we never made before? We know this will demand self-sacrifice, not on the part of some, but all of God's children. But surely with all the noble examples of self-sacrifice which we have before us we should not hesitate. Where would we be if it were not for self-sacrifice? If God, the greatest of all beings, with infinite love in his heart, had not given his only begotten and well beloved Son to come to this earth to suffer and die for us? If Christ, our loving Saviour, had not come here and suffered all the ignominy and pain, even the most cruel death on the cross for us? Then look at the apostles who suffered scarcely less for their love to God and man. Look at all the sacrifice and suffering of the early Christians and down through the ages to the present century. Look at the sacrifices our missionaries have made and are making, to leave their loving friends, their homes and all the attendant comforts, to go to heathen lands to suffer, many of them cruel deaths, for the sake of saving their fellowmen and spreading Christ's kingdom. Then let us ask ourselves what sacrifice should we make in consideration of all these facts and the command "Go preach the gospel." Perhaps God does not want us to go out into the world as preachers, so-called, perhaps we are not called upon to go into heathen lands and there proclaim the glad tidings of salvation, and perhaps he does want some of us to go. But there is one thing sure, the command to go preach the gospel is for us all, and if we are not privileged to make the grand sacrifice of giving our lives to the heathen, there is a sacrifice for us to make.

One of the greatest hindrances to mission work is the want of means to carry on the work. It seems to be easier to find some person to carry the gospel than the other necessary means. Have we all done all we could in this respect? If not, then here is an opportunity to preach the gospel.

May our hearts be so filled with love to God and humanity that we may make whatever sacrifice God requires of us, and we will receive the blessing.

In one province of China there are 50 churches⁸ self-supporting, self-taught in the Word of life, growing constantly in grace, and all this the result of hearing the message told as a story. They have their own preachers, pay their own expenses, keep gathering more and more of their heathen neighbors into the brotherhood of the faith. The native preachers wear Chinese dress, eat Chinese food, go barefoot, live in a mud cabin, and ask no cash which the poorest can give.