

A LOVING TRIBUTE TO MARY M. RIOCH.

BY E. E. F., ST. JOHN, N. D.

She brought a life of promise bright
And laid it at the Saviour's feet;
Then asked that souls through her be blessed,
And made for joys eternal meet.

Thus consecrating all to Christ,
She did with joy each task He gave;
Yet yearned o'er souls in heathen lands
And prayed—Lord, in thy mercy save!

And as she prayed she heard their cry—
A pleading cry from o'er the sea—
Which said, "Oh, bring to us the Christ
Who gives you hope, who makes you free."

A restless longing filled her soul;
The question oft repeated came:
"Why don't you go to that dark land
And tell them of the Saviour's name?"

"So many there are perishing,
Whose souls are precious in His sight;
Why don't you take to them the Word
That tells of Christ—the world's great Light?"

A solemn moment now had come
When fondest ties must severed be
If she would "lose her life" on earth
That souls might live eternally.

The sacrifice she made—which said,
Christ shall my only passion be;
To tell of Thy redeeming love,
Yes, Lord, I'll go; send me—send me."

And thus she goes to that far land,
Her hand in Christ's—her only Stay;
Her trust in Him whose friendship sweet
Can smooth the roughness of the way.

May the rich blessing of our God
Rest down upon her from above
That many souls through her may learn
To trust in Christ, and taste His love.

And when the reaping time shall come,
And all are gathered safely home,
Then shall thanksgiving tune her song,
That she to Christ these souls had won.

Small, then, will seem the sacrifice
That she had made to bring them there,
(Though she had left all else beside—
That they a crown of life might wear).

May this sweet story of her love
For Christ and souls touch every heart,
Till in this work we each may pray,
"Lord grant to me some humble part."

NOTES.

The following are extracts from a letter just received from Sister Rioch:

"I am situated comfortably and happily here in my new home in this far off land. Indeed I could not be happy anywhere else. * * * I am now living with Bro. Stevens and wife (who came with us) in the house built by the Board for Bro. Smith and family, who are now in the United States on furlough. * * * The Japanese students have nearly all studied English, and come to the house to converse. We use this means of reaching them. Already Bro. Stevens has immersed one and he has hopes of two more coming soon. * * * That was indeed a noble gift from that sister for foreign missions at Christmas. * * * Before hearing from Canada, Miss Harrison obtained a scholarship for the little girl I had taken. I am now looking for another. We do not take every one, but weigh the matter carefully before deciding. * * * We have met many kind friends here, and I am as happy as could be anywhere from home. * * * You all have done so nobly; I hope the money sent for my support will be more than repaid to you in souls—for whom Christ died."

The time is short. Then be thy heart a brother's
To every heart that needs thy help in aught;
Soon thou may'st need the sympathy of others.
The time, the time is short.

—Hezekiah Butterworth.

Selected.

INCREASE AND EFFORT.

There can be but little question that the great sin of the Christian world to-day is one of omission rather than of commission. Much as is said about the inconsistency of Christian lives, there is no question but that the greater part of these attacks come from an attempt to use captious criticism as the cloak of selfishness and pride. As a matter of fact, the one great reproach of the church to-day is not its lack of moral life, but its lack of spiritual feeling. We are callous as to the fate of the thousands who are daily dying without God and without hope. There is a decided tendency upon the part of the average Christian to be very solicitous as to my salvation, but little manifestation of the spirit which led Paul to consider himself a debtor to the Jew and to the Greek. We frequently speak with no little pride of our rapid increase in numbers. However accurate this expression may be as a comparison of our growth with that of other denominations, considered in the abstract, it is a gross parody on the facts. It could certainly scarcely be called an extravagant demand, that the Christianity professed by each individual should yearly manifest itself in the salvation of one soul to Christ, yet so phenomenal would be the growth in numbers resulting from the continuance of such a state of things that, in the year 1900, we would number not less than 50,000,000, making all due allowances for the ravages of death. Could the whole Christian world be brought to this mild state of activity for even one decade, the first days of the millennium would mark the opening of the next century. Why should we not start in our churches, "Save one League." The Apostle Paul did not consider it beneath him to take a vow, and surely the Christian of to-day would bring no dishonor on the name of Christ by a yearly pledge that, with the blessing of God, he would by personal effort add one to the number of the redeemed. It may be said that the formation of such a class of Christians is impracticable, and it may be true, but that is something that is not to be dropped trippingly from the tongue. That is our reproach and humiliation, and the fact should be to us a daily garb of sackcloth and ashes. Who of the Disciples of Christ in Virginia has ever saved one soul to Christ? Are you not ashamed of your silence? For this sin of omission there are few who, looking back over the past year, must not cry, "Mea culpa."—*Missionary Weekly*.

IS THE COMMISSION FOR US?

It was incumbent upon the apostles to do the special work which the Lord qualified and commissioned them to do. They were willing to hazard and surrender their lives in the conflict. They are a pattern to us of wisdom, of courage and fidelity to Jesus, whom we, as well as they, have called Master and Lord.

There are certain true principles which, if faithfully applied, make it as obligatory upon us as it was upon them "to spend and be spent" for Christ and the salvation of the world. For example, our cause for gratitude to God on account of His mercy and goodness in raising us from death "in trespasses and sins," and in making us "joint heirs with Christ," is as great as was theirs. Again, our obligation to render unto God the entire use of our talents and substance is as binding as was theirs. The man of one talent, too, is as truly bound to show diligence and fidelity as is the steward of five talents. The "necessity" laid upon every Christian now to assist to the extent of his ability in "sounding out the word," in carrying "the light of life" to them who "sit in darkness and in the

shadow of death" is as genuine and vital as was that laid upon the apostle to the Gentiles.

The reason why the Lord gave His commission was because He "loved the world" and wished to save it. He loves it no less to-day than He loved it then. He would make no less generous, patient and heroic efforts through His servants in the nineteenth century than He made in the first to bring the heathen to salvation. The spirit of the Lord is as mighty in our age as it was in any of the ages past. The gospel is as much "the power of God unto salvation" now as it was when Paul wrote his epistle to the church at Rome. Surely, too, the one thousand million unevangelized souls in the world to-day are as precious in God's sight as were the heathen in the days of Paul and Barnabas. If it was right and necessary for the soldiers of the cross in the first century to fight against the powers of darkness and to sacrifice selfish ease, temporal gain and even life itself to obey the will of our heavenly Captain, it cannot be any less right and necessary to fight and sacrifice now.

Verily, the fruits of missionary efforts to-day are so rich and abundant as to shame infidelity into silence. The reports from the wide field read like "new chapters in the Acts of the Apostles." We may successfully challenge the world to show any secular enterprise so successful as Christian missions in proportion to the capital invested and the laborers employed. The missionary has been and still is the pioneer of civilization. Even commerce has waited for the missionary to go before it and prepare its way into savage and barbarous nations, by publishing the gospel of "peace on earth and good will toward men." Alas, the agents of commerce have often been lovers of gain rather than lovers of God, and the nature of that commerce has often been adverse to the gospel.

World-wide evangelization is the chief, the supreme end of the gospel. It was the one object for which the Son of man lived and died on earth. It is the one mission of the church. It is the one thing above all others to which the gold and silver of Christians, with their prayers and all their loving and self-denying sacrifices, must be consecrated. The command "Go!" rings down through the ages, and shall never cease its ringing until "every creature" in "all the world" is saved.

We can no more excuse ourselves from executing the commands of the commission than we can from loving Christ, from seeking to do His will, from using our talents, from rendering unto God that which is God's, and from imbibing and diffusing the spirit of Christ. There is a literalism that kills,—for example, that which says the commission was only for the apostles. It might as well say the thirteenth of First Corinthians was only for the church at Corinth, or the fourteenth of John only for the eleven apostles, or that the Laodicean admonition in the third chapter of Revelation is in no wise applicable to any lukewarm church to-day. There is a literalism, too, that would interpret the command "Go," as if it excluded or in no wise involved the alternative, "Send."

During the recent cold weather there was much suffering among the poor in the cities. Our Christianity bade us relieve them. Citizens met, raised generous supplies and funds, organized committees to solicit more funds, to investigate applications for aid, and to extend all necessary charity. Did the multitude of citizens go? or did they send messengers and representatives? Likewise the church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas, its best and most gifted representatives, to the heathen. In view of the honest application of the fundamental principles of our religion to ourselves and the churches of Christ in our day and generation, there is no escape from the great, supreme, bounden duty, either to go ourselves to preach to the heathen, or to use, with sacred and whole-souled diligence, our abilities and substance to send our representatives to help bring the whole creation to the feet of Christ and into the joy of His salvation.

If we admire Paul, if we praise Carey, Martyn, Livingstone and Judson, why not imitate their examples, exhibit their spirit, show our faith by our deeds? If we know these things, happy are we if we do them.—J. J. Spencer in *Miss. Intelligencer*.