

self into several sections which met in separate rooms and considered the subjects appointed for them. The chair was usually occupied by persons of rank—Earls, Dukes, Lords, Judges, Diocesan Bishops as well as Presbyters or New Testament Bishops, and pious laymen of high repute.

The duties of the chair were not difficult, because when earnest men of God come together intent upon their Father's business they are usually of one heart and mind, and vain wranglings are ruled out by common consent.

Praise and prayer, with reading of the Word, found a prominent place in every session. One could not but be impressed with the spiritual power of these exercises. Papers carefully prepared and condensed, and not exceeding twenty-five minutes in length, were read, and then conference—comprising questions and answers, arguments and statements of facts gathered upon many mission fields followed, speakers being generally limited to ten or five minutes. Thus the knowledge and rich experience of a large number of members were made available. No attempt was made to pass resolutions, to settle things by vote, or to legislate for the church at large. The power of the Conference was in its spirit, not in its enactments, in the information elicited, and the missionary impulse given to the members now scattered in all parts of the world. We all felt more or less the power of the ascended Saviour whose work drew us from the ends of the earth for mutual consultation and effort. We not only conferred together, comparing plans, experiences, methods of work and aspirations, but unitedly sent up our earnest cry, day by day, to our Father and to Jesus the Founder of Missions, in behalf of the perishing millions of heathendom. And here let me say, in passing, that there was an appropriateness and an impressive reality in this cry issuing from the hearts and lips of those who had consecrated themselves and all they possessed and represented to the sacred work of saving the heathen. They did not ask God to do what they were unwilling to do themselves. Who has not felt as if it were a solemn mockery for men to implore and urge the Lord to enlighten the ignorant, and to save the poor and famishing, while they have abundant resources in their own hands to do so but refuse to use them? They ask God to enter hovels and abodes of iniquity, and to purify vile fallen creatures from whom they themselves shrink with horror. There was nothing of this sort in the supplications of our Conference. It was those who had hazarded