

MISSIONARY ADDRESS.

BY REV. JOHN MORTON.

FELLOW STUDENTS :—

Every life has its compensations. So far as the future is concerned years are in your favour, as regards the past they are in mine. You may do more work in days to come; I have had more experience in days past, and I may therefore give you a short lesson, though quite aware that with your superior advantages you can teach me much.

In school-boy days I read the letters of Dr. Geddie; I heard the Rev. George N. Gordon speak on missions before he left Nova Scotia, and also when a student the Rev. Mr. Matheson; and I recognize distinctly the influence these things exerted over my life.

My one hope then, in addressing you this evening, is that some of you may be in some measure influenced for good by the few words I have to say.

All mission work is essentially one, whether it be Home Mission, City Mission, or Foreign Mission work. How they can ever be antagonized is to me unintelligible. The Master and the message, the aim entirely and to a large extent, the means, are the same; only the language, the locality, and the minor circumstances are different. Home missions and home work come naturally and essentially first in time and place, and in the number of men they require. Foreign Missions stand forth as the most Christ-like and unselfish expression of the life of the home church. The home supports the foreign work, the foreign crowns and completes the home. Without the home work there can be little foreign, without the foreign the home work will be arrested in its development.

The work being one, we should not decide for ourselves what part we will take in it. Servants should not choose their work, least of all servants in the Gospel. God wants every true worker, and has a place for him in which He will make him both useful and happy. The Master knows what you are best fitted for, and if you are not wayward he will show you this very thing. He will put you in the right place if you only develop your own character and strength, and follow His guidance. I do not then say: "Be Foreign Missionaries, all of you." Still less do I say: "Get ready and come to Trinidad." I say rather, "Prepare for the work and go at it wherever God calls you."