

## Mission Field.

### THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

As a Church we shall certainly die without the missionary spirit which is the very breath of life in the nostrils of a Church. There is no religion that is not now gasping that is not a missionary religion. The Church is like a bucket of water swung in the air. You must keep it going very rapidly or the water will all come to the ground. The Church is like a top; when it flags it reels, when it stops it falls. Interest in the cause of missions is therefore the one thing needful, the *sine qua non* of the Church. To suppress this interest is to commit ecclesiastical *harkari*. And then, again, what would become of us as individuals? We should grow spiritually proud and soul-sefish, which is the "sum of all villainies" in religion. As it is, many of us set about our salvation just as the "world's people," as we choose to call them, set about their business or pleasure. We are bent on the salvation of our own souls at whatever cost to the souls of others. It would be better if we could forget that we have a soul of our own to save in over-burning enthusiasm for the salvation of the souls of our fellow-men. Is not this what our Lord means when He says: "He that findeth his soul shall lose it, and he that loseth his soul shall find it?"—*Rev. John Edgar Johnson.*

AN appeal for help in the missionary work of the Church should come home with special force in Lent. Can we be content to prize for ourselves the consolations of our religion—the knowledge of God, the promise of pardon, the sympathy of the Cross, the assured means of grace which are ours in the Church—and not be zealous to do what we can, and all that we can, to spread to others these gifts and privileges, without which our own lives would lose their brightness and strength?—*Bishop Hall.*

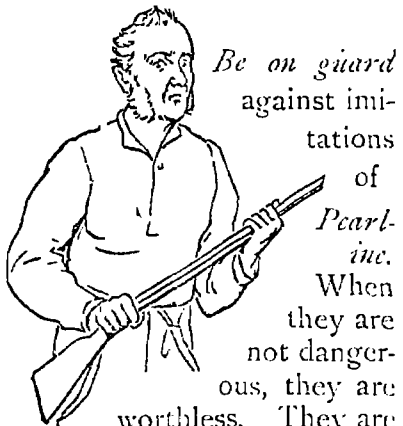
LET the clergy tell their congregations frequently and strongly the story of our work, and fear nothing but the displeasure of our King if they keep silence. The people will like to hear it; but whether they do or not, "tell it out" and give everyone an opportunity to make some contribution to the work. Cultivate an *esprit de corps* that shall make every soldier loyal and liberal, and make every parish feel that its name must be on the roll of honor, and that a failure to give something to missions is a cause for shame and reproach.—*Bishop Rulison.*

No one thanks God more heartily than I do for the increase in missionary interest, in increased offerings, in new fields occupied. But we are as yet only gleaners. What could not our branch of the Church do if no day broke and no sun went down without earnest prayer for the

coming of the Kingdom of Christ in all lands, in all hearts, in all homes? Then all tithes would be brought into the Lord's storehouse, and He would surely pour out a blessing that there would not be room to receive it.—*Bishop Whipple.*

LET us wake out of sleep and be alive to duty and privilege. Missions! They are the feet that carry forth the Master's command. They are the fire that spreads the warmth of His love. Let us have our part and lot in this blessed work. Otherwise there is not sound health in our Christian living. What matter if we be few and feeble? If every man and woman and child in the Church would say, "As a disciple of the Master I am bound to think about missions and to pray for missions and to give for missions," and would keep up the thinking and praying and, at least each year, giving something definite, regular, as they are able, for Home and Foreign Missions, we would find soon that Heaven's blessing would transform feebleness and feebleness into strength, and bring a generous tide of new life into our dioceses and parishes.—*Bishop Tuttle.*

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