

what is the present prospect for their survival. Attention should also be given to the disposition of the people toward the Roman Church, their willingness, or otherwise, to receive instruction and other things that would aid in the selection of fields of labor among them. If those who were expected to become the missionaries should make this exploration (and this would be desirable), a good beginning should be made toward a mastering of the native languages.

The outfit for such an expedition need not be very expensive and the total cost of a year's work could be more than met by the literary proceeds. This part of the work might be entered upon at once and would do much to arouse an interest in the subject and make further advance possible. In fact, I believe that it must be done and that, too, by private effort, before any organization will move to the work of planting a mission.

Once in possession of the facts that could thus be brought to light, some society, or it might be, some man of means whose heart God should touch, would, I trust, furnish the necessary financial support for the opening of the work. The field chosen would probably be remote from civilization and full of dangers. A small, carefully selected and well-furnished force should be sent to make a beginning and advance should be upon the lines developed. It might prove that, under the touch of Christianity, elements of the old civilization would spring to life and thus new peoples be brought into the "federation of the world." Or, it might prove that all traces of the old were but forms of dust to vanish at that same potent touch. Then it would be the work of the missionary to guide these peoples clear of the dangers of the present Spanish-American civilization, and introduce them into the better and purer form of life into which we are already trying to lead their Spanish-speaking neighbors.

It cannot fail to add a thought of

interest to remember that the missionary living among these peoples, making an intelligent study of their life and language, would doubtless encounter many facts, and would give light upon that most perplexing problem, the history and origin of American races.

This work is a duty to someone; is it not to us? How can the Protestant Christianity of the United States be blameless if it fail to preach the true Gospel to these dying millions, who, right at our doors, have been for centuries cursed with a false faith? When we stand before the judgment throne will not we hear the question, "Where is thy Mexican brother?" Shall we answer, "Lord, we left him in his filth and ignorance and vice." Or shall we answer, "Lord, we told him of the blood that cleanseth, we brought to his dark mind the knowledge of Thy dying love, we showed to him 'the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world,' and here, Lord, he is, washed and redeemed, a jewel for Thy diadem."

Anent the Aztecs.

BY REV. LEVI B. SALMANS.

Anglo-Saxons, as we are, and missionaries, too, suddenly set down in the midst of a Latin people, we could not fail to admire the Aztec population of the fastnesses of the Sierras. They have never been conquered by force of arms, though the Latinized government, which has come to prevail throughout Mexico in a certain way, has come into the power of rulership. Yet the Ancient Cacique is the organized power behind the throne. Nothing of importance can be done by the Mexican government in these mountains except it be agreeable to the leaders among the Indians, as we would call them, though they are as different from our Indians as the Japanese are from Chinamen, or French from English. I do not know whether these comparisons are just right or not, but the Aztec was a semi-civilized race, living in cities built of stone