

MISSION FIELD.

THE VARIETY, THE PROMISE,
THE GLORY OF MISSION
WORK—Continued.

By the Rev. Canon Westcott, D.D.

III. THE GLORY.—Now, when you think of work so wide, so full of promise, do you not feel that there is a call here for every power with which God enriches man—do you not feel that there is a call here for all tenderness of sympathy, for all enthusiasm of zeal, for all breadth of knowledge to be brought to God and used in His service? And what then, when every variety of work, when every promise of work, becomes a call, what, I say, is our answer? I should be the last to disparage the results which have been achieved. We believe that God has been pleased to answer continual intercessions by additions of means, of men, of devotion, that He has crowned those intercessions with the crown of martyrdom. I rejoice to hear that Cambridge has been allowed to send in the last year an apostolic number to aid an Apostolic Church. But when I look upon the famishing multitudes, do I not say "What are they among so many?" What are they? Yes, the little offering which God is pleased to bless, the instruments through which He is pleased to do His work. But are we contented that this shall be the measure of our sense of our duty? I cannot forget the numbers who pass to the uttermost ends of the world as merchants, as explorers, as soldiers. And can it be that the love of gain, the love of adventure, the love of country, can do what the love of Christ cannot do—call out unnumbered volunteers to a work of exceptional difficulty? To ask the question is to answer it. To answer it is to convict ourselves. We heard not long since that the northern frontier of India was threatened. Was there an Englishman who thought that any expenditure of money or of life would be too great to guard the possessions which God had given us? And when we think of the line of positions along the Indus; what then? That line of positions seems as if they were vantage-points whence in due time a Christian army shall march forward to give liberty to Asia. And what do we hear from them? A cry, a sad cry, of solitary-watchers calling almost piteously for reinforcements, and shall their cry be in vain? Let our answer be clear and decided.

We ask, then, for men and women—for men and women gifted most variously by God's good pleasure, but all alike in this—that they have absolute devotion, simple faith, true love, love to God kindled by the love of God, which is the only sure foundation of the love of man. But some one will say, "We want those men at home"—say it sadly, touched, it may be, by sights which have met their eyes in coming here this morning. We do want them at home, and therefore I say, "send your legions

abroad." The work of missions is our own work at home. The work of missions is a revelation of sacrifice, of growing knowledge, of affection, of unity. The work of missions is our own work. Here, also, the great truth finds fulfilment, that to lose is to gain. When once the spirit of devotion and sacrifice is kindled in the body, it makes itself felt to the last extremities. The mission of the Spirit to the Church is always the same—"Forget thine own people and thy father's house." And why? "That thou mayest have children whom thou mayest make princes in all lands." The work of missions, I say again, is our own work.

We need, sadly need, the grace of unity. Those who work upon the mission field feel as if they had already been allowed to taste the beginning of the great issue, and I venture myself to look forward to the time when those native churches of India and the far East shall realize that ideal which rises before our eyes of a great Church, pure in its scriptural simplicity and apostolic in its constitution. The work of missions, I say again, is our own work. This great blessing of the sense of sacrifice, of the growth of truth, of the power of victory, of the beginnings of unity belongs to every Christian man and woman in England, it may be felt by everyone in its power and in its benediction. To us, we trust, the work of missions shall become a part of the ordinary organization of every parish and every congregation.

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