

In it the age of world-wide missions has begun. More than all the generations on whose dust we tread can we to-day take up the Psalm, "All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God!" Let us take to ourselves the great consolation that to-day, as never before, the work is advancing. The long and laborious process of undermining the chief strongholds of heathenism will one day be followed by a great crash.

The figures and facts reveal an increase in the number of converts from fifty thousand to nearly eighteen hundred thousand within eighty years. But this conveys no adequate idea of the work done. Every body of professed disciples means a *community of Christians* with great numbers of *adherents*, not in communion. For every ten thousand church members, there are fifty thousand who are identified with Christianity instead of paganism. And no numerical estimates or statistics can give any hint of that deep, broad under-current of Gospel influence that, like the surge and swell of a tidal wave, lifts whole races to a higher life.

The issues that hang upon a revival of missionary principle and spirit are too vast to be measured. Can we do anything to secure it? We need a more complete organization of Church activity. No congregation, however small and weak, must pass missions. The feebleness which is assigned as a cause of such neglect, may be a consequence of it, for nothing keeps a Church weak like doing nothing outside of itself. Unselfish effort for a lost world makes its pulse quick and its sinews strong; self-extension reacts to promote self-support, and if Churches that scarce live at all, would nourish and cherish a missionary spirit, they would grow in numbers and graces, in vigor and power. The Moravian Brethren with but 20,000 adults have no rival as a missionary body. Out of their poverty they give an average of \$1.10 each, annually. From even the smallest Church a yearly missionary-offering is expected as a necessary feature of Church life. Yet even in our great Congregational and Presbyterian Churches, with all their wealth and culture, from one quarter to one-third yield not one dollar to the great mission treasury. A greater need than thorough organization is the thorough sanctification of our Church life. The smouldering embers of our altars need to be fed with the fuel of abundant and accurate knowledge of facts, and then to become a zeal according to knowledge, fanned into glowing coals and consuming fires by the breath of the spirit of God. Otherwise, even where there is the most abundant missionary activity we run what Warneck counts the chief risk of missions, "That missionary enterprise shall glide into routine; missionary zeal become so much rhetoric; and participation in missionary work degenerate into a mat-

ter of mere habit, not to say ecclesiastical business." The revival of the missionary spirit must begin with the clergy. "Like priest, like people." The tide in Church life reaches no higher flood-mark than in the hearts of the ministry. The Chinese to this day feel the power of the person of William Burns, because in himself he was a living proof of the Gospel. Our people will lift the standard of missionary zeal when we burn and shine with that ardor and fervor for missions which is the enthusiasm of Christ, the fire of the Holy Ghost."

### How to interest our People in Missions.

WE summarize an address recently delivered before a Scottish Synod. Officers and people must be deeply interested in the "common salvation," and Christ must be precious to them. Among a living, earnest, spiritual people, there is always a ready response to every appeal for aid to advance the glory of the Master. Ministers must show themselves really and deeply interested in Missions. It is utterly vain to expect the people to be generally interested in such work if there be no glow of genuine concern in the minister's heart. "Like priest, like people." The minister will make himself thoroughly acquainted with the work of the Church, and explain it to his people as no one can do with the pen. He will lead the prayers of his people in such a way that "praying and working" will go hand in hand. You may as well expect a locomotive on the railway to continue its course from day to day without fresh supplies of coal and water, as to look for sustained interest in the missions of the Church without a continuous supply of information. The *Record* should be in every house, and its pages should be studied with constant care. The letters of the Missionaries should be read and talked over.

Our people should pray for Missions both at family worship and in private. There will be prayer in the Church and prayer-meeting; but supplications should also arise from the "family altar." We cannot systematically pray for objects to which we are indifferent. We cannot teach too plainly the truth that giving is a grace well pleasing to the Head of the Church. Praying and giving—giving and praying! Let us be careful to teach and train the young to take an earnest and intelligent part in the work of the church. They are soon to be our ministers, teachers, elders and communicants. They are to be the church of the future. How important then that their sympathies should be properly directed!

Pray for our missionaries in the New Hebrides. Pray for our missionaries in Formosa.