

who is forever seeking and framing excuses, so as to withhold both self and means from the service of missions, is not a consecrated Leaguer. Where there is lack of missionary zeal there is absence of spiritual life. When the Leaguer is fully consecrated to God he will be able to say, "By God's grace I am willing to serve in the place where the Lord chooses, whether that place be at home or abroad." This is a question which comes as a deep *will-test*, a sincere questioning of the soul's obligation to God, and is as essential to those who stay at home as for those who go abroad; for until the Christian Leaguer is willing for service anywhere he is in bondage to himself, and as useless at home as abroad.

The problem of self-denial is bound up in this question of missions. Self-denial is necessary. To exercise this spirit is to have the spirit of Christ, which is the spirit of missions. Jesus denied himself of heaven's bliss for a season that He might declare the love of God to a lost race. So must every Leaguer deny himself, and take up his Cross and follow Jesus in sacrifice for men.

Take this illustration. There are two brothers, and both become missionaries of the Cross of Christ. They cannot both go to the foreign field. They together resolve that the elder shall go—the younger to stay at home and earn money to support his brother upon the field. The elder brother bears the Cross of Christ in sacrificing home, home church, and home land, etc., etc., for the sake of Christ and the heathen. He is doing nothing beyond his duty. His service to himself seems not sacrifice. It is not sacrifice—it is a service of love. He joys in it.

Shall not the younger brother who remains at home win his Master's favor by bearing the same Cross of Christ—which is the Cross of sacrifice? Yes, at home he must work and deny himself, so as to save of his means to support the brother upon the field. This to him is no longer sacrifice, but joy. He delights to do it, for he is truly a missionary at home, bearing the Cross of sacrifice for the sake of the world's evangelization.

We think this should be the spirit of all our Christian Leaguers. Then these waiting volunteers would go forth to the field to win precious souls for Jesus. Never was there a day when Leaguers should rally around our missionary interests as to day. Let us love more, give more consecrated money, pray more, sacrifice more, and let every Leaguer in this District make one faithful, united, self-sacrificing effort to the end that this world—God's world, Christ's world, our world—be won from heathen darkness to the Gospel's light.

We feel that God is leading us out into a broad place that we may devise plans for our campaign work, which lies now immediately before us in this District in connection with the Young People's Forward Movement for Missions.

Let every Christian Leaguer arouse and be in earnest, for truly the fields are white to harvest, and the obligation of the ingathering rests largely upon us.

Christ's Birthday Gifts.

BIRTHDAY gifts are chosen so that those who receive them are happier for the thought and love enfolded in the giving. Christmas giving should be full of the thought of pleasing Christ. Our gifts of love must go to Him through those who need most the Christ-like touch to gladden and brighten their lives—through those to whom Christmas is an empty festival because many do not think of Christ's wishes about "The least of these," nor His rules for the entertainment of guests.

Medical Missions.

The paths of pain are thine. Go forth
With patience, trust and hope;
The sufferings of a sin-sick earth
Shall give thee ample scope.

Beside the unveiled mysteries
Of life and death go stand.
With guarded lips and reverent eyes
And pure of heart and hand.

So shalt thou be with power endued
From Him who went about
The Syrian hillsides doing good,
And casting the demons out.

That Good Physician liveth yet
Thy friend and guide to be;
The Healer by Gennesaret
Shall walk the rounds with thee.

—Whittier.

Skilled Missionary Workmen.

MARCUS L. GRAY.

One of the greatest needs in the Kingdom of God to-day is skilled missionary workmen in the home Church. The efficiency of foreign missionaries has often been called in question, and the character of their work has been freely discussed. So far as our missionaries in the foreign field are concerned, their scholarship, devotion and wisdom are unquestioned by any one who is familiar with their standing as a class. From the days of St. Paul down to the time of Adoniram Judson, our missionaries have been men of the highest character. We honor them for what they are, and for the work which they are doing. Many of our best educated men and women are now going to the foreign field, and their qualifications are of the highest type.

The magnitude and success of the foreign missionary enterprise give emphasis to the need for more skilled missionary workmen in the Church at home. If the Gentiles are coming into the Church at Antioch, Athens, Corinth, and Rome, the Church at Jerusalem must put forth increased effort to care for a growing Church. Even apostolic gifts and skill are needed at home to give direction in grave and important matters pertaining to the Kingdom of God. If William Carey offers to go down into the gold mine in India, Dr. Andrew Fuller "must hold the ropes." We need and must have increased efficiency and skill touching missionary work in the home Church. There are too many Christians in the home land who repress the missionary spirit, as did Dr. Ryland when he said to Carey, "Young man, sit down." Instead of such advice, we substitute Paul's exhortation to Timothy: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

We need such skilled missionary workmen in all our pulpits, in our Christian Endeavor Societies, in our Epworth Leagues, in our Unions, and in our Women's Missionary societies. Leading laymen in our Churches need the same skill for missionary work.

If our readers will study carefully our medical missions as printed in this issue, and continue to study the information furnished from month to month, they will soon have a fair introduction to our missionary work.