

to reach and influence many of the children, and that they in their turn will become missionaries to others. Pray for us, dear children, and while you pray and work for the children of many climes, do not forget to work and pray for the children of Northern Honan.

Yours sincerely,

J. FRAZER SMITH.

### A PARABLE WITH A POINT.

A gentleman who had accumulated a vast fortune was suddenly seized with an impulse to help somebody. He employed an agent to select three poor men, who were reported to be worthy, as objects of his generosity. They were invited to call at different hours at the elegant residence of the generous benefactor.

To the first who was introduced he gave the choice of three kinds of business. -- Choosing the grocery trade, the rich man gave him the sum of \$3,000 with which to commence and carry on the enterprise. -- The second preferred the dry goods business, and to him was given \$5,000 to purchase and stock a store. The last selected farming, and he was started with \$10,000. Each made his investment, and for five years every thing went well enough.

After five years' trial the grocer, the dry goods man, and the farmer were still alive; their families had been fed and clothed, and their affairs were in good shape. One morning, toward the close of the fifth year, the agent of the benefactor of these men called upon each in turn, beginning with the one who had received the smallest amount.

"Good morning," said the agent. -- "Five years ago my master gave you \$3,000. He is to-day in need of money to carry on other benevolent enterprises, and has sent me to see how much you will give to help him in his charitable work?"

"I am glad you called on me," replied the grocer, promptly and cheerfully, at the same time handing the agent a five-

dollar bill and saying: "Take this, and call again when your master needs more."

The agent called at the well-filled store of the dry-goods man and stated his object.

The merchant heard the agent and then abruptly hurried away to serve a customer, the net profit of that single trade being, as he gleefully told the agent on his return, about \$3. He then invited the agent into the office, and after making several inquiries concerning the kind of enterprise contemplated, and expressing his idea that "the heathen at home" needed to be taken care of first, handed the agent \$1, saying: "I hope it will all be used."

Calling upon the farmer the agent reminded him of the \$10,000 which he received and stated the needs of his master likewise. The farmer excused himself while he consulted his crop record and his wife, and after looking at the clouds in the sky, and speculating about the dry season, and saying: "I don't expect to see it rain for a month," handed to the agent a quarter of a dollar, remarking as he did so: "Don't expect too much of us hard-working farmers. Twenty-five cents is a good deal off a sheep's back."

How many grocer, merchant, and farmer Christians who believe in and acknowledge a divine Providence, and hold their property and stock at a net valuation of thousands of dollars, yet who dole out their pittance of twenty-five and fifty cents, when they ought to be turning into the Lord's treasury for benevolent and missionary work not less than five or ten, or even twenty dollars a year!

It is neither charity nor benevolence to pay preachers who preach to us or to build churches in which to worship. That kind of giving is all for ourselves. That only is benevolence which blesses others without any hope of return.

In diving for pleasures, we often bring up more gravel than pearls.