

*The Christian.*

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## EDITORIAL.

## THE PARABLE OF THE POUNDS.

Luke xix.

(Synopsis of a discourse delivered by the Editor before the annual meeting of the Disciples at Lot 48, on the second Lord's Day in July, 1896.)

(Continued.)

Those who are now laboring to spread the Word of God are encouraged and assisted by men of the present and the past generation, men who defy difficulties and but soar the higher in the face of determined opposition. Among this noble army we may mention two—William Carey, of England, and Adoniram Judson, of America. After Carey had received the Master's pound, he saw the heathen world without the Word of God and was deeply moved. He compared India to a great mine of immense but unexplored wealth. When he was asked by a brother: "Will you go down into that mine," replied: "I will, if you will hold the rope." Both were then and there solemnly pledged to God and to each other. One to go into the mine the other to hold the rope. Both kept that pledge till death.

Carey was determinedly opposed both out of the church and in it. Venerable leading brethren denounced him as an ignorant speculating upstart. The news of his scheme spread throughout the nation and statesmen and orators united in ridiculing the "presumptuous cobbler." But Carey persevered. He travelled and lectured till a number of his brethren were aroused to sympathy and help. A society was formed to hold the rope in 1792. Their first collection was under \$100 dollars. The collection of the same society in 1892 was over \$1,000,000 dollars.

In 1793, Carey, after many disappointments, reached India, where he learned their languages, preached the gospel and turned many to the Lord. In less than thirty years he and his associates had the scriptures translated into over thirty languages and dialects of India. He died in 1834, beloved and admired of all good men. The government was greatly benefitted by his learned labors, and esteemed him highly, though at first opposed to his mission. Who can imagine how many Carey's pound shall have gained when beside his many works that follow him he gave to the millions of India the Word of God in their own languages to read till the Lord shall come!

Adoniram Judson received also a pound on which to trade. He determined to go to the heathen and if possible let them read in their own language the Word of God. Discouragements faced him wherever he turned, but only to make him the more determined to be a heathen missionary. He reached Rangoon in Burmah, in 1813, learned their language, and in seventeen years had all the scriptures faithfully translated for all to read. He preached six or seven years before he had

a convert, but was not discouraged. After four year's preaching, one man came to him asking, "Are you Jesus Christ's man? I want some of Jesus Christ's writing." Judson gave him a tract and a part of the gospel which he had translated and talked to him of God and Christ the Saviour. He seemed very anxious and sincere, but he went away and Judson saw him no more. Persecution probably prevented him and many others from confessing Christ. But Judson toiled and labored on. He was imprisoned two years, chained like a felon to a block of wood, sometimes in three pairs of fetters, sometimes in five. In this loathsome dungeon he must have died but for the exertions of his wife, who, though in delicate health, waited on him and on his fellow-prisoners until the government was prevailed upon to release them. Judson's labors and suffering are recorded in God's book of remembrance. Though years were passed without one convert, his confidence in God never failed, and he lived to see 20,000 won to the faith. The scriptures were read, native preachers labored with good effect, and thus grew the Word of God. Judson died at sea, far from his friends, with only one Christian on board, on the 12th of August, 1852. When his rough coffin plunged into a foreign sea, how sweet was the echo in heaven, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them." Like an earthen vessel he was broken, but his pound has been growing, and will grow and increase, till Jesus comes. The Baptists have now 148 missionaries in Burma and 601 native preachers, 600 churches, with over 33,000 members. Near Rangoon they have a theological seminary, with 200 students in it preparing to preach—one of the largest schools of the kind in the world. Have we, beloved brethren, been brought into the family of God? been reconciled to him by the blood of the cross? If so, what a high calling is ours. We can exclaim with the apostle, Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knows us not because it knew him not. Then he has given us in trust his word, his gospel. By it we are saved if we keep it in memory. Let me affectionately ask, how are you handling the Word of God. Are you holding it forth so as others may receive its light and power? The Master is coming we know not how soon, to find out how much we have gained by trading. Others are circulating the Word of God, and God is by this means increasing its power and making it grow. What are you doing to circulate the Word of God. It shows us how to act towards all men. Are we praying and striving to so live that the light which God has given us may shine out to others that they too may walk in it. Our light is either on a candlestick or under a bushel. We must either hold forth the light or cover it. I have been speaking of Foreign Mission work, and we may clearly see how to in-

crease the Word of God by sending it where it is not. Are you, beloved, engaged in that noble work? Do you, from your heart pray that the Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified wheresoever and idolatry abound? Men have hazarded their lives and gone into these dark and dangerous places to spread the gospel, while others have promised to support them. Are you helping them by your money and sympathy? This requires determination and self-denial. But now much easier it is to assist those who leave all the attractions and endearments of home and friends, than to go ourselves. Many have gone, and more are going, depending on God and his people for support. God is greatly prospering them and giving them souls for their hire. Will you share in such a harvest and thus increase the Master's pound?

Remember the nobleman does not ask his servants about their emotions, how much or how little they have felt, but ascertains how much every man has gained by trading. He does not leave us to worry over our feelings, but gives us plain work to do, shows us how to spread his glorious gospel, and thus increase its power. But there are objections urged against foreign missions as against every other good work. One says we have heathen at home who need the gospel, and I will not give money to send it to foreign parts.

It is not those who do the most for home work who thus speak. This is patent to every observer. It is those who do little for home work who will do nothing for the heathen.

But the argument rest upon a false assumption, viz: that the unconverted with us are in the same state as the heathen; this is untrue, and the whole is but a miserable excuse for keeping the gospel from the lost. If men at home reject the gospel is this a reason for keeping it from others who will reverence it. But we should preach the gospel both at home and abroad as Jesus has made "all the world" the gospel field. Another objection is: It is wrong to send the gospel to the heathen for it will make the state of those who reject it still worse.

It is strange that those who thus reason cannot see that such argument is against every favor received from God or man. It is wrong for us to attempt to save drowning men as it will make the man who positively refuses our aid a suicide. It would condemn the gracious mission of the Son of God, for those who reject his offered salvation will be worse than if there was no salvation offered them.

There are other objections but they are so monstrous we will not mention them now. We may put the last loving command of Jesus against all these objections. Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved and he that believeth not shall be damned.

But, says the objector, that commission