

most directly affects the glory of God, the salvation of immortal souls, and the eternal happiness of men.

On this account it is customary, on occasions like the present, to direct the attention of the brother ordained to topics bearing upon this important work, to the qualifications required for the successful discharge of these important duties, and to the encouragements necessary for sustaining men in this arduous and difficult work. In present circumstances, however, I shall waive all reference to these subjects. I shall say nothing on the necessity of vital, earnest, personal piety, of unblemished character, of exemplary conduct, or of the great importance of professional acquirements, of high and varied scholarship, of diligent study, of the wise and judicious improvement of time, and of constant and implicit dependence on divine guidance and help. I shall say nothing on those things that are common to all ministers and to all missionaries. I shall confine myself to a few particulars which may, in some degree, be looked upon as peculiar to a missionary going to the New Hebrides.

1. Have a special care of your health.

Good health is an essential condition for securing successful work. No man has ever doubted the moral and perpetual obligation of the sixth commandment; and the sixth commandment requires of us "all careful studies and all lawful endeavours to preserve our own life," as well as the life of others. As men, our bodies are the workmanship of God, and are not to be neglected; as Christians, they are the temples of the Holy Ghost, and are not to be profaned; as ministers, they are vessels—earthen vessels it is true, but still vessels in which the heavenly treasure has been deposited, and which are not to be carelessly, heedlessly or recklessly handled, lest the vessels be broken and the treasure be lost. Our bodies are to be preserved in the highest possible state of health, so that we may most effectually glorify God thereby.

In this pre-eminently healthy climate, men may break the sixth commandment, may trifle largely with the laws of health, and yet long escape the penalty attached to these transgressions. It is quite different in the New Hebrides. There the penalty threatened follows quickly on the back of the transgression, while the whole condition of things is such that men are most easily thrown off their guard. No dangers are apparent; there is no cold to be felt—the source of so much sickness in other lands; the islands are beautiful; the climate is delightful; existence itself is enjoyment. From the summits of the mountains to the seashore the densest, greenest, freshest foliage everywhere meets the eye; the fervour of the noon-day sun is moderated, and

the sultry air is made pleasant, by the steady trade wind or the grateful sea-breeze, while nothing can be more delightful than the cool of the evening shades or the freshness of the morning dawn.

Everything is so enchanting that the stranger is ready to conclude that surely these must be the elysian fields of ancient fable, the isles of the blessed, that the fruits are ambrosia and the drinks nectar, and that to dwell here is to secure something like immortality; that under such skies, and surrounded with such scenes, any attention to locality, or dwelling, or food, or clothing, or rest, or labour, must be quite superfluous; men may live anywhere or anyhow, and no evil can befall them.

Nothing is more difficult than to convince the stranger that beneath all this fertility, this exuberance, and this beauty, there lurks a subtle poison, a dangerous miasma, a deadly malaria, while neither one nor the whole of the five senses combined can discover, which the most careful conducted chemical analysis cannot detect, but whose presence is as certain as that of the evil one—while, like the evil one himself, its presence cannot be known except from its effects.

The truth is, that by attending carefully to the laws of health, by keeping these in view in the site of your house, in the construction of your dwelling, in your clothing, your food, your labours, your rest, and your medicines, you may enjoy a large and a lengthened measure of good health, but if you wilfully break the sixth commandment, if you disregard the laws of health, if you live as you list, most likely some afternoon, when you least suspect any danger, you may feel a dull languor, a strange listlessness, creeping slowly over you, which you cannot shake off though you strongly wish to do so—which cleaves closer and closer to you till you are shivering, trembling, and shaking in the chill, cold, freezing embrace of an island fever or a certain ague, which, if it does not shorten your days, will diminish your energy, and greatly curtail your usefulness.

Have, therefore, a religious regard to the preservation of your health, as a duty which you owe to God, to yourself, to the heathen, to your brethren, and to this church.

2. Wherever you may be settled, make it a primary and a special object to acquire a thorough knowledge of the native language. One of the first discoveries you will make when you are settled on some station will be this, that your lips are sealed, that you cannot speak a word which the people can understand. Lose no time in removing this seal from your lips. A few of them, it may be, can smatter a few words of broken English, but do not let this deter you for a single day from the study of the native