

of oppression and barbaric civilization, the women everywhere in the east, excepting only those of the island empire of Japan, may only be approached and taught by those of their own sex. None but quite the lower orders in Egypt, Palestine, Persia, India and China, may be seen by, or hear the voice of any man who is not a near relative. To these secluded women, preaching in church, bazaar or street is practically as though it did not exist, for spending their whole lives in their caste locked prisons, from which some at very long intervals, others *never*, go forth, what benefit would it be to them were the missionaries as numerous as clergymen in England, or that to every 10,000 of those teeming multitudes in India or China there was an appointed shepherd? Nor can the written word reach them any more than the living voice, for until quite lately it was rare to find a zenana lady who could read. The children of the poor, educated in government and mission schools, enjoyed a blessing denied to the high caste purdah ladies, and the gentlemen of their families looked down, too, scornfully on feminine intellect, to take pains personally to enlighten it. Clearly then if the women of the east were to hear the Gospel, some other agency must be found, and thus it is that so many English women touched with compassion, have gone forth to minister the Gospel to their sisters so long sitting in impenetrable darkness and the shadow of death, and many has it been their joy to guide into the way of peace. Further, the breaking down in India of many ancient superstitions and prejudices, the greater enlightenment of the male population consequent upon a century of British rule, and a long period of British education, the desire for companionable, because educated wives, has created a demand for female education which synchronises with the increase of female agency. The hour had struck, and the voice of the angel proclaiming the everlasting Gospel to every kindred and tongue and people and nation, is sounding abroad, and demands that the women that publish it shall be a great host. Time would fail to tell how, and by what varied means these devoted sisters work, what sanctified wisdom and ingenuity they display in their widely differing fields of labor, and how carefully they adapt their methods to the varying conditions of those to whom they go. We might tell of the itinerant and village missions of North India and Bengal, where our sisters during the cold season make a circuit of some miles distant from their stations, taking with them tents and servants, camping day after day in a new place, often among those who have never heard the Gospel, enduring like Jacob of old the drought and heat by day and the frost by night, often in weariness and painfulness, brought on by the

heavy strain of a most trying tropical climate. Regardless of all this, they continue gladly, so that they may tell the sweet story of Jesus and His love to those who have never heard it. That their work is appreciated by man, and owned and blessed of God, is attested by remarks often heard, such as these, "Why have you never come to tell us this before? Come again soon. Come and live among us. It is a year since you were here before. How can we remember what you tell us if you stay away so long." Many a poor Hindu or Chinese woman hidden away in remote villages, has been found long after, not only to have received the truth and become a secret believer, but to have told it to others, thus becoming herself an evangelist to her country women. Or we might point to the zenana work carried on in great cities, where our lady missionaries go forth day by day at an early hour, from house to house teaching the secluded inmates needle work, reading and writing, but never omitting a single day to give Bible lessons. That is the grand condition of their entry into the homes of all whether high or low, and many a promising invitation has had to be refused because the master of the house will not allow his ladies to learn the Bible. Of course plans and methods differ widely. Our ladies among the rude tribes of northwest Canada, or amid the gentler Indians of British Columbia, work under very different conditions, in some respects better, in some worse, than those of China or Japan, or much favored Ceylon. While a missionary in India might have much to unlearn or to adopt were he suddenly transported to Persia, the Niger, or Uganda, yet all these fields afford rich opportunities for the exercise of woman's special gifts of love, sympathy and tact. And in that great day when all secrets are revealed can we doubt that many a tale of female heroism in the endurance of opposition, persecution and that strain on physical strength which is peculiarly trying to woman's feebler frame, will come to light. And when the Lord of the harvest calls home the reapers we are sure that not the least abundant sheaves are those that shall be laid at His feet by female laborers.

The same blessing following the introduction of female evangelists would be found were we to pursue our inquiries into fields occupied by other bodies of Christians where the same heroism has been displayed.

We might instance Miss Annie Taylor's adventurous and successful attempt to penetrate into that hitherto fast closed land of Thibet, of the courageous journeys made by the Misses Guinness and their companions, when two and two, accompanied by only native servants, they have travelled far and wide in Inland China, and of many others who in remote