

attested by Galen, the great Greek physician, to whose mind this feature in Christianity carried such overpowering conviction of its truth that he died in its faith.

In the fourth century a remarkable illustration of this subject appears in Nemesius, Bishop of Emessa, whose work, "On the Nature of Man," shows that Harvey was not the first discoverer of the great fact of the circulation of the blood. In the fifth century we find honored recognition among clerical orders of a class whose special function was ministering to the sick, a self-denying and dangerous work in those days of pestilence and plague; hence their descriptive name, *Parabolani*,—"They counted not their lives dear," as it might be fully rendered.

We cannot doubt that this aspect of early Christianity contributed much to the marvellous rapidity with which it spread. A very natural hope arises that its reappearance may hasten the glory of the latter days. Still it is to be feared that as yet the Church has hardly recovered her hold of the great principle referred to. Her modern Medical Missions are rather the result of expediency, their necessity being impressed by the prolonged failure (comparatively) of purely spiritual work, and their fitness suggested by the ease with which medical travellers of benevolent turn passed the barriers of foreign prejudice, and often opened the door for the gospel. In India the present freedom for Christian work, and indeed for western commerce also, seems to be traceable to such a source, as may be seen by an extract from an address by Sir Henry Halford to the Royal College of Physicians in 1838. "It seems that in the year 1636, one of the princesses of the imperial family had been dreadfully burned, and a messenger was sent to Surat to desire the assistance of one of the English surgeons there. when Gabriel Boughton proceeded forthwith to Delhi, and performed the cure. On the minister of the Great Mogul asking him what his master could do for him to manifest his gratitude for so important a service, Boughton answered with a disinterestedness, a generosity, and a patriotism beyond all praise, 'Let my nation trade with yours.' 'Be it so,' was the reply. A portion of the coast was marked out for the English ships, and all duties were compromised for a small sum of money. Here did the civilization of that vast continent commence; from hence the blessed light of the gospel began to be promulgated among a hundred millions of idolaters, since subjected to the control of the British power. This happy result of the successful interposition of one of our medical brethren, suggests to my mind the question of the expediency of educating missionaries in the medical art as the earliest object of their studies. We know what the Jesuits have accomplished in the pursuit of this object wherever they have found admittance, and I am sanguine enough to believe that even the proud and exclusive Chinese would receive those who entered their country with these views without suspicion or distrust, which they never fail to manifest when they surmise that trade is the object of the stranger's visit, or some covert intention to interfere with their institutions."

The views of this Christian philanthropist were shared by others on both sides of the Atlantic, and indeed isolated experiments had already been made in different parts of the field with much encouragement, and it was not long till a fair test was made in Canton by some representatives of the American Board of Missions, with most happy and instructive results. Dr. Parker tells us that after ample notice, when his hospital was opened in that city, "no patients on the first day ventured to come, on the second day a solitary female afflicted with glaucoma, attended; on