

## X.

### Why ?

"THE most puzzling question which comes to Christian people at a time of great sorrow is why?.....We look back to find what precedes our experience to learn the reason which God had in letting us have it. The best reasons for God's greatest deeds, so far as we know them, lie after the deeds themselves.....In the case of the greatest sorrow the world has ever known the reason for it followed it. There is no adequate explanation for the death of Christ in any of the events which preceded it. The redemption of the world which is so steadily following it is the only adequate explanation."

—*The Consolation of a Sorrow.*

"I am the first to come out. Do you know I have a feeling that others will soon offer for missions. The spirit is there. This has been seeding summer, harvest will come . . . . Don't be anxious about me. I have given all to Christ and I am perfectly happy."

—*From Ethel Bredin's letter to her Minister.*

"If you do not receive a cable before you get this letter, you will know that Ethel is better" was the message that had been sent to Mrs. Bredin, October 16, from India. Wishing to carry out as far as possible Ethel's wishes that her mother should be spared anxiety we delayed the cable until about the time the first letter would arrive. But only a loving Father could have arranged it, so that on November 16, just about *two hours* after Mr. McLaren had broken the news to Mrs. Bredin the letter was put into her hands. It was a terrible shock but in the midst of her sorrow the brave mother was able to say, "I do know that God doeth all things well . . . . I can truly say I am glad she went and am so thankful that I never tried to prevent her going." A sister wrote: "Mother's heart is sore for the disappointed missionaries, yet we have faith that this is God's way of fulfilling Ethel's intense desire to help bring Christ to the people of India. Somehow it seems fitting that her body is resting there, not here."

When the news of Ethel Bredin's death was known many letters from her girl friends came to the mother, and all with the same testimony that their lives were better for her touch. "I caught from her some enthusiasm for the Master's work