

stay at home or go abroad, travel by land or by sea, preach in our own or in a foreign language, labour on the frontier or in the great cities, that we be Missionaries; not content unless the church grows by our instrumentality, both in extension and in inward grace; lest by self seeking we vitiate the truth of our own Spiritual life, and separate ourselves from the flow of that blessing that comes from Christ through his Holy Spirit.

MISSION-WORK IN SOME SPIRITUAL ASPECTS.

There are many points of view from which earnest men and women may look on the mission-work which is going on in the world. It may not be without use, in the present condition of the missionary field, if we ascend to the highest point of view, and look for a little at missions in their spiritual aspect. We are tempted to rest satisfied with low views of this kind of work: we are content to think of missions as sectarian Church work or as schemes of usefulness, which do good among men, and which, if well managed, exhibit satisfactorily the liberality and organizing power of a Church. We are content with a humanitarian view of missions, and think of them as means of blessing the heathen or the Jew, at the same time of exhibiting the learning the patience, and the heroism of men—the missionaries; or we look at them simply as educational, and are content to enumerate our colleges and schools, our scholars and graduates, and to gauge the mental

calibre of our converts and catechumens.

Now, while we are perfectly satisfied in all such views and are perfectly entitled to rejoice in the organized efficiency of our Church's missions—in the great work which our heroic missionaries may do as men for men—in the intellectual machinery which they may have set in motion, and the grand results which have been accomplished by that machinery—it will not do to forget that these are ~~after~~ only subordinate means, and that these are only inferior results,—the true power being the spiritual power of God, manifested in infinite variety of forms through men—the end, through an infinite variety of channels, being the salvation, or spiritual perfecting, of the lives of men in this universe.

1. *Let us remember that the work is God's work.*—It is not only Church-work, and the work of Christian men and women—it is not only our work for God: it is more than all this—it is God's work *in us and by us*. We forget the true relation which every true Christian bears to God in Christ, and which every human being, true to his nature, ought to bear to God the Creator, who made him the first after his own image. It is not merely that God, as Law-Giver, has given us a law, which comes to us formally and from without, commanding us to be about such work; but it is that God, as Creator, has put into us a nature which cannot truly exist and develop itself unless it is about *this work*. The sublime and mysterious union which exists between God and man