

MISSION FIELD.

VARIOUS MEANS OF AIDING THE CAUSE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

A PAPER READ AT A CONFERENCE AT SALISBURY.

[From the S. P. G. Mission Field for April.]

[CONTINUED.]

Collecting boxes form another means of obtaining money for the cause of Missions; but its productiveness depends much upon the way in which boxes are treated. If they are merely placed on a shelf, and there left, with little or no thought bestowed on them, they collect but trifling sums. If, however, they are entrusted to persons who religiously intend to put in them such savings as they can from time to time afford by means of any acts of self-denial, they often produce much.

Then, further, we may all bear in mind that in the course of our lives there often occur occasions of deliverance from injury arising out of some accident. There are also many causes of thankfulness for particular mercies received. These may well suggest to us the making of some offering on every such occasion by means of our Missionary box as a token of our gratitude to the Giver of all good gifts; and it would be well for us, whenever we put anything into our box, at the same time to offer up a silent prayer that the gift, however small, may tend to the honour and glory of God, and we should make a thanksgiving for His mercies.

And now we must approach that part of the subject before us which concerns only a small portion of the community, and which is yet a vastly important matter for our consideration—'Personal Service.' Who will offer himself to be a Missionary? Who is worthy? Who is fit to go? There may be zeal and fervor, there may be a longing to become a Missionary and yet something may be about the man which may render him unfitted for the work. Still, there are more men wanted—ah, and faithful women, too—for the evangelization of the world; and there are plenty of young men in every rank of life—young ladies, too, in abundance, wanting occupation. How is it, then, that so few, comparatively, will make the sacrifice? So few ready to respond, 'Here am I; send me' (Isaiah vi, 8), when the voice reaches them with the words, 'Who will go for us?' Is it not so that the subject of Foreign Missions has been too little brought to the notice of the young? Something, no doubt, is done in many schools of all grades to promote an interest in Missions, but not nearly so much as might be done.

In our Public Schools, and in our Universities, much more might be done (as a part, in fact, of religious education) to impress upon the rising generation the imperative importance of spreading the knowledge of the truth throughout all nations of the world. Care should also be taken with regard to elementary



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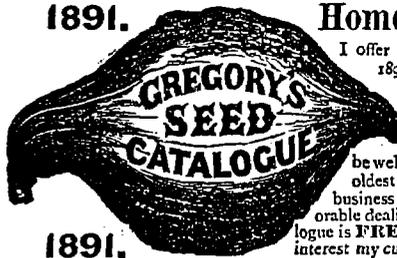
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schools that the duty of doing something for the Missionary cause should have a place in the religious instruction of the children.

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Some of the 'various means of aiding the cause of Foreign Missions' have now been slightly and imperfectly touched upon in the hope of suggesting points for profitable discussion on this vastly important subject—important indeed it is—for if our Church and country do not exert themselves to carry God's truth with them, at least to those lands which form part of the dominions of our Sovereign, how can we expect the Divine blessing to rest upon our own land? Ah! and we must go beyond also—not India and our Colonies alone, but 'Darkest Africa,' the remote regions wherein are dens of heathenism, must come under the beneficent influence of the Gospel of peace through the Missionaries sent out of this Christian land.

[To be continued.]

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