

God's Spirit so that we shall have such special services as shall be in accordance with His will and bring an outpouring of His Spirit with them. Meanwhile, let us pray and work, for who can doubt that the blessing shall be all the greater if these shall be our preparation for such services as have been suggested? In the name of the Executive,

ROBT. H. WARDEN, Convener.  
R. CAMPBELL, General Agent.

TORONTO, October 30th, 1900.

### Prayer in Behalf of China.

At a Conference held in New York last month to take into consideration the interests of Christian Missions in China it was decided to summon the Church to a week of prayer, for united intercession in behalf of that unhappy land. The week beginning the 28th inst.,—next Sunday—was chosen, and it is earnestly hoped that as many services as possible during next week will be devoted to this purpose, and that special and generous contributions be made for the re-establishment of missions wholly or partially destroyed.

The appeal issued is signed by R. P. Mackay in behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, by Judson Smith for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions,—and by Thomas S. Barbour for the American Baptist University and is in part as follows:

The destruction of missionary property and the sacrifice of valuable lives in China, at first sight disheartening, is really in line with our Lord's teaching, and with the history of His Church in all ages. \* \* \* Witness the persecutions begun so early in the Church at Jerusalem, and so persistently followed up under Roman emperors, which scattered the good seed as by a whirlwind in many lands. The Moravian Church was cradled in the fires of persecution for two hundred years, and thus was purified and fitted for her splendid record in the world's evangelization. In Madagascar at one time Christianity was nearly annihilated by relentless foes, but the Church again revived and developed into a vigorous life. The story of Uganda is recent and familiar. Louis Krapf began his work in Africa by burying his young wife. He wrote home, "Tell our friends that they have now a Christian grave in East Africa, and as the victory of the Church is gained by stepping over the graves of her members, you are sure that you are now summoned to evangelize Africa from its East side." The Christian Churches on this continent have now many sacred graves in China, and it is God's call to China's evangelization.

"Out of the shadows of night,  
The world moves into light;  
It is daybreak everywhere."

We would make special mention of the native converts who are now cast into the furnace, commending them to the love and the earnest intercessory prayer of the church universal. Many beautiful testimonies have come to us of the self-sacrificing and heroic spirit of large numbers of these Chinese Christians. At the peril of their own lives they have sought to assist and protect the missionaries. When the story is fully told, there will be found instances of Christian heroism rarely equalled. The triumphs of the Cross are not declining either in number or quality. The nineteenth century does not fall behind the first in the numbers who have counted not their own lives dear to them, but sought that, whether by their life or by their death, Christ would be glorified. These last chapters of the Acts of the

## • Our Young People •

Apostles will be no less thrilling than the chapters that have preceded them. For the thousands in Northern China that have lost homes and all means of support, we would bespeak generous gifts for present relief as well as loving sympathy and prayer.

The times are ripe for whole-hearted effort in regard of work for the evangelization of this great Empire. Divine wisdom and inspiration are needed. Will you not earnestly join in carrying into effect this proposal for a week of united prayer? The Mission Boards need you. China needs you. Christ needs you. And he bids us lay hold on His almighty arm that He may make His power known among the nations.

### "Choose ye This Day Whom ye Will Serve."

BY REV. A. C. DIXON, D. D.

"There went great multitudes with him." But going with the crowd after Jesus is not discipleship. There must be individual decision. He saves not by companies, but one at a time.

Jesus has compassion on the multitude, but no desire for mere numbers. He would rather have a few true disciples than many hangers-on, for the serious work He has for us to do. Three hundred decided, brave followers are more than thirty thousand hesitating and therefore cowardly adherents. In our lesson He turned around to the multitude and applied some searching tests. Let us apply them to ourselves, and not shrink from the ordeal.

1. We must decide for Christ, though all our kindred oppose. Our love for him must be so intense that love for others may be considered as hatred.

2. We must decide for Christ, though it cost us our life. "If any man come to Me, and hate not his own life, he cannot be My disciple." It is better to die and be with Christ, than to live and deny Him. After all, death cannot touch the real life, which is hid with Christ in God.

3. We must decide for Christ, though it brings humiliation and suffering. "Whoever doth" not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple." Crosses are not mentioned in the Bible, and the cross refers to Calvary, with its humiliation and pain. But true decision for Christ means a willingness to make His cross our cross. We are willing rather to become acquainted with Him in the fellowship of His suffering.

4. We must decide for Christ, though we have to forsake all that we have of friends, property and position. "So likewise whoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, cannot be My disciple." A business in which you cannot serve Christ must be abandoned. A social circle in which you cannot testify for Christ must be given up. Companions with whom you cannot shine for Christ must be forsaken. Every effort should be made to win our companions, but if we cannot win them to Christ, they must not win us to the world. No one has a right to sell his soul for money, social pleasure, or position.

In view of these four facts we see the importance of sitting down and counting the

\*Topic for November 11: "A decision for Christ."—Luke 14: 25-27.

cost. Reflection beforehand is better than regret afterwards. God wishes us to act as intelligent, responsible beings.

It is like a man intending to build a tower, who sits down and counts the cost, lest after he has begun he should leave it unfinished, and his enemies should mock.

Mockery for the sake of Christ is one thing. Mockery because of failure in what we undertake ostensibly in the name of Christ is another. The first we should bravely meet, the second we should seriously avoid.

The world is full of unfinished characters and lives. Men who began to build and laid a sort of foundation have given up in despair. The walls of the Brooklyn cathedral, six feet high, are now covered with earth and grass, a monument to the folly of the men who twenty years ago began and could not finish. Let it be said, however, that he who begins trusting the resources of God will always be able to finish.

It is like a king about to make war, who knows that he has only ten thousand men while his enemy has twenty thousand. Can he depend upon the unseen forces of the superior courage and endurance of his army to overcome mere numbers?

Life is a battle, and the powers of evil that we see are greater than the forces of good. Goliath is always bigger than David; and if David depends upon his physical prowess, he will have his flesh fed to the fowls of the air. But if David comes in the strength of almighty God, no Goliath, however big, can conquer him.

The unseen resources of the Christian are always greater than the seen. If God is his resource and equipment, his towers of character will not be unfinished, and the army that he can marshal on the side of Christ will never be defeated.

Though the tests are severe, the rewards are great, and no one has a really good reason for refusing to decide for Christ.

### Our Prayer.

Can you not multiply copies of the following, and distribute them for concert reading at the meeting?

Blest Jesus, grant us strength to take  
Our daily cross, whatever it be,  
And gladly, for Thine own dear sake,  
In paths of duty follow Thee.

And day by day, we humbly ask  
That holy memories of Thy cross  
May sanctify each common task,  
And turn to gain each earthly loss.

Help us, dear Lord, our cross to bear,  
Till at Thy feet we lay it down;  
Win through Thy blood our pardon there,  
And through the cross attain the crown.  
W. W. Wow.

### For Daily Reading.

Mon. Nov. 5.—Two lines. 2 Cor. 6: 14-18  
Tues. Nov. 6.—The power of the Christ-life. Eph. 2: 1-7  
Wed. Nov. 7.—How maintained. 1 John 5: 10-21  
Thurs. Nov. 8.—A choice imperative. Matt. 6: 24  
Fri. Nov. 9.—For or against. 1 Kings 18: 17-39  
Sat. Nov. 10.—A memorable choice. John 18: 33-40  
Sun. Nov. 11.—Topic. A decision for Christ. Luke 14: 25-33

Christ and His cross are not separable in this life, howbeit Christ and his church part at heaven's door; for there is no house-room for crosses in heaven.—Samuel Rutherford.