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# Northern Messenger

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'The "Northern Messenger" is a marvel for the price.'—Archibald Lee, Grenville, Que.

## One Missionary's Experience.

(Rev. I. S. Hankins, Atmakur, India.)

As a young Christian I used to wonder what was the nature of the missionary's calling, and what was the character of his daily work and experiences. Having now had a little personal experience in these things, I will put upon paper some things as they now impress me.

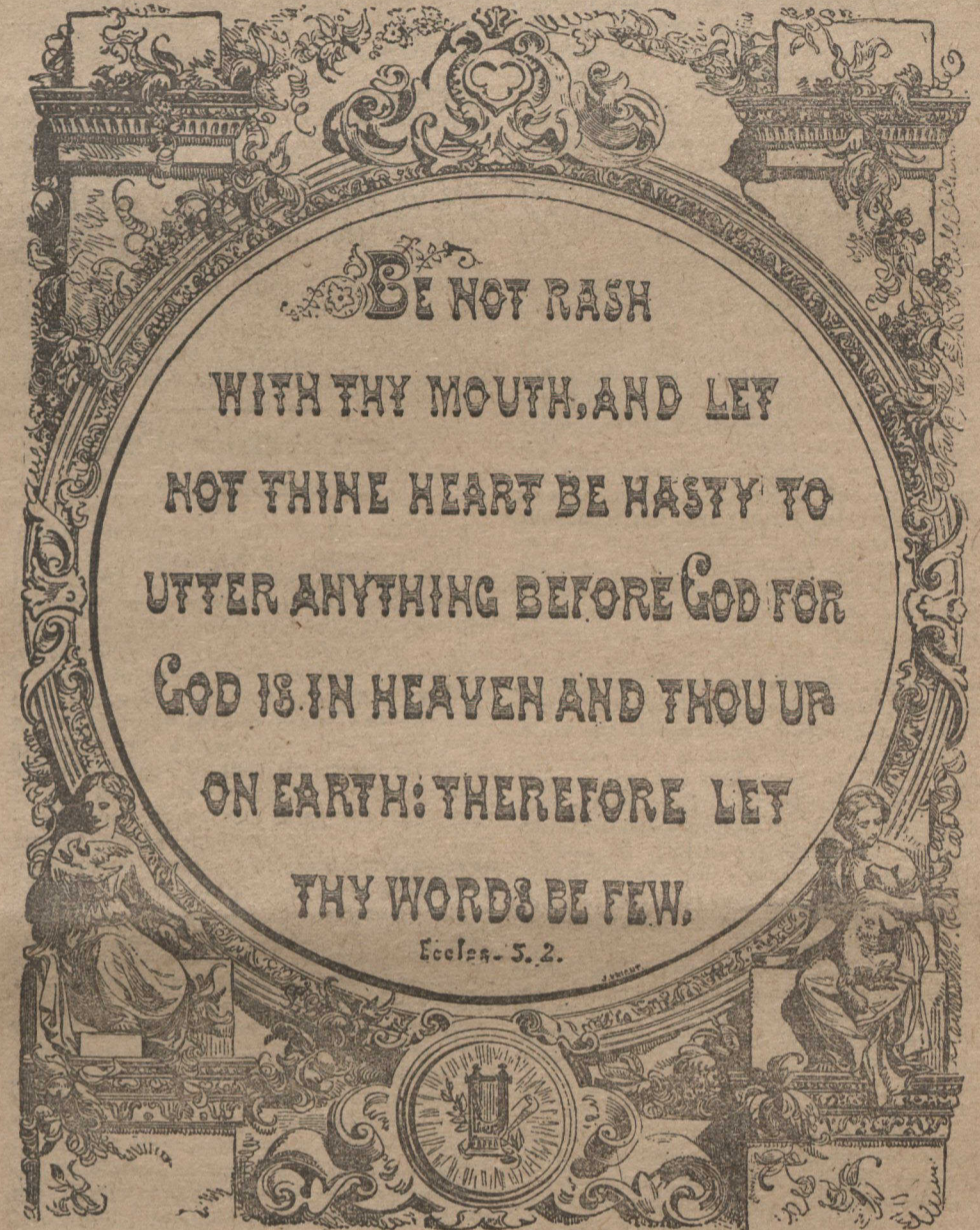
**A House Builder.**—At home I always joined the crowd in doubting the wisdom of the man who attempted to be a jack of all trades, but since I have been in India I have had a great deal more respect for jack. I have many times envied him his skill, even though he is not an expert in every department. A missionary ought to be an adept at all kinds of work. When I came to my station I knew nothing about building a house; worse than this, I did not know the Hindu. With this stock of ignorance I had to begin and build my house. I would have been glad if I had had even a smattering knowledge like jack. The work must be done. Upon the theory, I suppose, that experience is the best teacher, I proceeded, and I confess I had a good teacher and learnt a few things. A knowledge of masonry, carpentering and civil engineering would have served me well. As it was, I had to depend upon my common sense alone. If a missionary could have knowledge of everything under the sun he would have use for it every week.

**A Doctor.**—One day soon after I arrived a man came all doubled up with cramps in his stomach. I gave him a dose of some medicine I had, and it cured him. This established my reputation as a first-class doctor, able to cure the incurable. Soon I was besieged for medicine, and since then I have had hundreds of cases of all kinds of disease. Notwithstanding the fact that I never had a bit of practice, a very bad case of a broken thigh was brought to me. There was no one else to attempt the job, so I had to try. I did the best I could and, to my surprise, the man did fairly well, as well as many I have seen at home set by regular physicians. Young physicians at home cannot get a reputation and practice as easily as this. I must be a doctor whether I want to or not.

**A Lawyer.**—A missionary must be a lawyer and judge. There are disputes that he must settle. His bungalow is very often a court of justice. He must be lawyer, judge and jury. Many cases that he settles would puzzle a native magistrate. He must also act as an attorney in cases that must go into court.

**A Theologian.**—A missionary ought to know religion, and must be religious. He must know in whom he has believed, and be ready to give an answer to the heathen philosopher, as well as to the ignorant heathen.

**A Pastor.**—The missionary is to preach a personal and individual gospel and organize single and small churches. He is to baptize the ones and twos, and be interested in the small details of individual life. His work has, however, a broader scope and bearing than the individual aspect. He is a factor in a nation's history in civilizing and developing a coun-



—'Little Folks.'

try. If his work is successful it will affect every phase of a nation's life. A missionary is no specialist. A statesman must give his attention to politics, but a missionary's work has its effect upon the social, industrial, political, educational and religious world. In all lands, but especially in India, the religious life and beliefs control social customs and even education itself. In a land like India, which is undergoing great changes, the work of imparting to a nation true religion and religious life is stupendous and of vital importance. India needs the gospel of Jesus Christ more than she needs English rule or western civilization.

**A Teacher.**—Education always follows in the path of true religious life. 'Educate people and make them religious' will not succeed, but education will be sure to follow evangelization.

To save souls, to establish the church and plant the gospel of Christ, to take part in advancing civilization and the development of a nation, to ameliorate suffering and preach the gospel to the poor, is a work which is not excelled for grandeur and usefulness by any calling or profession to which man can give his life.—'Baptist Missionary Magazine.'

## The Blacksmith Evangelist.

There was an old blacksmith converted down in the country where I came from—in Tennessee. He was a very ignorant man. A friend of mine met him on the street one day, and said to him: 'Why don't you come up to the revival meetings?' He replied: 'You 'tend to your business, and I'll 'tend to mine.' 'But,' he said, 'I am; I'm a preacher, and I want you to come up to the meetings.' He said: 'I'm a blacksmith; you 'tend to your preaching, and I'll 'tend to my blacksmithing.' 'Well,' he said, 'you come on up there; you can have a back seat, and sit there or go out whenever you please.' Well, he wouldn't promise. But he came, and when the invitation was given he was the first man on the front seats. And he did that thing as he did everything else—he went into it with his whole heart. Good old Tom Sexton! he always had his hair cut in such a funny way—he looked funny—he looked queer. And when they heard that Tom Sexton was converted everybody laughed. But he would go to church and he'd tell the same thing—get up in prayer-meetings, anywhere.

First thing we knew he was beginning to