

A FEW QUESTIONS CONCERNING MISSIONS.

... In the history of the children of Israel after the death of Joshua we read of certain nations which the Lord left, to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the Lord. Is there a lesson here for us? Do you ever look across the seas to our mission fields? Do you know how few the laborers are? Do you see the work they have to do? Do you know whether helpers are going forth to their aid? When some one broke down did another go to take his place, or did the new burden fall on one already overtasked? Do you know we should not send men to take up work laid down? They should be there ready, acquainted with the language and trained in the work. Do you know how many mission stations we have where a man and his wife are "holding the fort" together, or a single man or woman? We have such stations. Some stations even, that have been planted and held so bravely, are now without a missionary. Do you know how many ordered home by their physicians are staying on their fields because they can not lay down their work till some one comes to take it up? Do you know what God is doing for us? Do you know that whole villages plead for teachers to tell them of Jesus? God has left these things to prove us by them to know whether we will keep his commandments or not. Verily,

"He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat."

Shall we not see another "Great Uprising"? Eager volunteers in every village? Shall not the rich give their thousands and the poor bring their offerings for the common cause? Shall not every mission paper be scanned as eagerly for news from the front as when the last telegraphic reports from the battlefields was in every man's mouth?

Why is not every one interested in missions? because they know not the scriptures, nor the power of God. They know not His wonderful promises, nor the wonderful works He is accomplishing throughout the world.

Why should every Christian be interested in missions? This fellowship in His work is granted to us that we may know Him.

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We shall rob ourselves of Divine anointing and Divine help if we do not make room in our busiest days for quiet retreat from noise and strife, apart with Christ, where we may sit at His feet to hear His words, or lie on His bosom to absorb His spirit for the refreshing and transforming of our own lives.—*Rev. J. R. Miller, D. D.*

I pray you, if you love your country, and if you love its Christian character—I pray you bear in mind that there is little that will do more for your own country and church, than to preach the Gospel throughout the world, remembering for whom you preach.—*Archbishop Temple.*

One has only to visit the missionary field associate with missionaries and come in contact with the astonishing fruits of missionary labors to become convinced of the Divine character of the enterprise and filled with enthusiasm for the prosecution of the work.—*Geo. F. Pentecost, D. D.*

The man or woman who learns to give in the right spirit forgets all about the duty in the privilege, and the absence of life's necessities would bring no such distress as to be cut off from the luxury.—*A. T. Pierson, D. D.*

Consecration has come to mean vastly more than any private interchange of soul relationship between self and God. It consists rather in putting the whole self at work upon the things that God wants done. When we reflect upon the needs of the world, and upon how God feels toward those needs, the seeking of any mere personal or private benefit at God's hand causes us to feel some secret shame. In God's order, the world is made over into the kingdom of Christ not by the easy way of begging the Almighty to do the work, but by the vastly harder road of doing it ourselves.—*Geo Albert Coe.*

Christ did many things for his own country. What he did may well suggest what we can do for our country. And yet we must always remember that what Jesus did he did it more for humanity than for the members of any particular nation. He was sent to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel," but his love reached out to all mankind.—*Baptist Union.*