

**WORKERS TOGETHER WITH GOD.**

By Rev. Dwight Goddard.

**A**FTER we have made our gifts of money for the support of missions, or even given our lives for service in the field, we have done very little compared with the appalling immensity of the need. Except God gives the increase, our gifts have been in vain. Our little service is necessary, however, and if we do our part faithfully, God will surely add his infinitely greater energy and bring the harvest.

Think of the farmer and his labor. He must plow the ground and scatter the seed and cultivate, but what is this mere mechanical part of breaking up the soil, scattering the seed, bringing water, to the Lord's grander task through the centuries? Who disintegrated the rocks to form the loam? Who causes the seasons to come and go with unfailling regularity, who causes the sun to shine, and the rain to fall?

How much finer than our thoughts in thinking, when to sow and when to reap, are the thoughts of God as shown in the laws of chemism and organism that interact for life and growth! It is God's life that throbs through all, it is God's infinite will that causes all to co-ordinate and progress to a perfection that is beautiful beyond our highest imaginings.

How impressive the thought that He who moulds the mountains by his might actually finds a place for our little piles of sand, as if we were really assisting him! Yet he tells us how to co-operate, so that our gardens blossom fairer than his meadows, our fields bear richer harvests than his prairies, our trees more luscious fruits than his forests.

He does not treat our feeble efforts as an impertinence, nor our blunders as a hindrance, but finds place for them and then glorifies them beyond our desires. The Heavenly Father feels toward us as we feel toward our children, and far, far more tenderly. Our little boy offers to help us weed the garden, and he works at it, oh, so earnestly, often digging up our most precious seeds and breaking down our choicest flowers. Then he looks up so happy and innocent to say, "I help papa now." Yes, dear heart, you do help. You fill life with purpose and gladness and love that make the darkest day seem sunny and the hardest day a delight.

So often our best efforts hinder rather than help, but God accepts them, pleased with our willingness and then transmutes our rude at-

tempts into fairest flowers. We are workers together with God! Our feeble hands are sharpening the tiny bits that the Infinite will use in the great mosaic of his love.

So just as man's intelligence co-operates with God in farming, by intensive cultivation, by crossing and cultivation of new species, to bring forth new beauties of flower and better grades of fruit, so God permits us to work with him in the regeneration of the nations. He has provided the way of salvation, but has committed unto us the ministry of reconciliation. It is man's love and service working in co-operation with God that is to bring the nations of the world into the kingdom of heaven. It is man witnessing for God, teaching, healing, loving, that is to spread the gospel of Jesus. It is for us to plant the seed of truth, to water it with service and to watch over it with love, but it is the power of God that is to give the increase.—Life and Light.

**SOCIAL REFORM IN INDIA.**

The annual conference of Social Reformers in India was held recently at Calcutta. The President, a judge of the Calcutta High Court, called attention to several reforms that he considered urgent. These were the fusion of the sub-castes in each community, the curtailment of the very excessive marriage expenses, the raising of the marriage age of boys and girls, and the re-marriage of child widows. Speaking of the remarriage of virgin widows, he said: "Those gentlemen who are willing to take an active part in such a cause will not earn, I am afraid, the popularity that political leaders win, but the great God, who searches the hearts of men, will certainly reward them." Besides resolutions advocating the above reforms, one was passed condemning polygamy. There was also one on the elevation of the depressed classes of whom there are forty-five millions in India.

A striking feature of this conference was the part taken by several Indian ladies in the proceedings. The resolution on female education was moved by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the Bengal poetess, who lives at Hyderabad. This was seconded and supported by three other ladies.

The ladies held a conference of their own one evening to discuss the duties and disabilities of their sex. The various religions of India were represented, as there were Orthodox Hindu, Christian, Brahmo, Parsee and Monam-