

destitute. I once met with a native helper, who had been ten or twelve years in the missionary service, and yet did not own a Bible, nor even the New Testament. In Madura I have had all my native helpers give me a list of their books, and where they need good books I procure them and let them pay me gradually. But it is not enough : they must also learn to study them. The natives are in general no friends of literary occupation. Diligently as they labor upon their studies when preparing for an examination, yet, as soon as this is over, they cast their book- into a corner, and trouble themselves no more with them. Our native helpers are no exception to the rule. They have to be encouraged, and indeed compelled, if nothing else will avail, to make use of their books, so that they shall not forget what they have learned in the seminary, but shall go on to build upon the foundation there laid. It is true, the yearly examination they have to undergo before the Church Council is an admirable means of driving them to study, especially as the increase of their wages depends essentially upon their passing it. Yet these yearly examinations comprise only a small part of the circle of knowledge which it concerns them to cultivate. They do not supersede, but rather imply special instruction and examination by the missionary himself."

The *Dansk Missions-Blad* says that its society has had, this last year, in its fields of labor abroad, especial occasion to complain of indifference to the preaching of the missionaries. Madras, however, contrasted favorably with the country parts of South India. A Brahman had been baptized. The Danish Society is considering under what form those are to be received as catechumens, who cannot be baptized, as having more than one wife. In the annual meeting of the society there was a lively debate upon this topic, evincing decided divergences of view. The introductory prayer to the annual sermon of the Danish M. S., preached at Ringsted, in Zealand, is worth translating. It is a good missionary collect: "Holy and mighty God! Holy and compassionate Saviour! Thou thyself hast said that thou wilt be with thy friends all the days. Let us, therefore, perceive beyond doubt that thou art with us to-day, that thou dost operate within our hearts and upon our hearts by thy Holy Spirit, and that thou dost bless this missionary festival throughout all its course, even as thou alone canst bless. Amen." In the following sermon is this brief reminder: "The Missionary Commission was given to men who were unhesitatingly ready to show their faith in Jesus by their deed. But yet it was given to *sinful* men, who could be terrified, over-scrupulous, and often doubtful. Even a Paul and a Barnabas, on a missionary journey, could fall at variance as to the best method of carrying on the work, and thereupon separate, although neither of them was separated or wished to be separated from the Lord."

The German friends of missions are under strong temptation, continually repeated, to subordinate their work to the colonial ambitions of their country. They appear to be meeting this temptation manfully. The following, from the *Evangelisch-Lutherisches Missionsblatt*, can be best understood as having such a reference :

"The kingdom of Christ was not to succeed the great dominions of the world as these succeeded each other. There the later always brought destruction to the earlier, and one transmitted to the other the germ of sinful corruption. But in the midst of these temporal and earthly changing and transitory images of the prophet's vision, there grew up, out of the seed of the gospel, out of the mustard grain of the preached word, the eternal kingdom of the Most High, in the unostentatious, simple form of the congregation of Jesus Christ, of the Christian church. This has, it is true, experienced at the hands of the kingdoms of this world much injustice, hostility and oppression. She has had also many enticing offers to receive their characteristics into herself. But she has steadily asserted her peculiar character of God's kingdom in this, that she has never and nowhere allowed herself to be permanently fettered by the boundaries of nations or languages, by the enactments or policies of states, by distinctions of race or grades of culture. She has remained true to the apostolic declaration : 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female.' Over all these severing barriers she has striven toward the higher unity : 'Ye are all one in Christ Jesus.'"

The Leipzig M. S., though sending out within three years 11 missionaries to South India, has met with so many losses by death or sickness that now, for its 23 stations, it has only 22 missionaries. Yet "we have to acknowledge