

get a good education, but his parents were so poor that they could not afford to keep him at school; so when he was very young he was apprenticed to the village shoemaker, but while busy at his trade he managed to learn Latin and Greek, and besides to pick up all sorts of useful knowledge from such books as he could procure.

He was remarkable then, and all through life, for his earnestness and perseverance, and these qualities were the great secret of his success as a missionary.

He was converted when he was about twenty-one years of age, became a member of the Baptist Church, and was soon after called to be the pastor of a little congregation in the village of Moulton. Not long after this, while reading Captain Cook's voyages, the descriptions he gave of heathen countries, and the degraded condition of their inhabitants led him to see very clearly that the Saviour's parting command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," Mark xvi. 15, was still binding upon all His people, and therefore upon him. It was thus that the grand idea of a foreign mission first entered into his mind, and from that time forward he never ceased to urge upon all whom he could influence the duty of sending the Gospel to the heathen, and at length, after discouragements innumerable he succeeded, in 1792, three years before the formation of the London Missionary Society, in inducing a very few Baptist ministers and Church members to form themselves into a Foreign Missionary Society.

At its first meeting about \$65 was subscribed, and Mr. Carey at once offered himself as its first missionary to go to any part of the world. In making the offer he said, "I will go down into the pit if you will hold the ropes."

These words were long remembered, and are often quoted still. He meant that while he was ready to meet bravely the unknown dangers and trials of life in a heathen land, his Christian friends at home must sustain him by their faith, their prayers and their means.

Soon after, India was decided upon as their mission field, and with much difficulty enough money was secured to pay the passage of Mr. Carey and his family, as well as of a Mr. Thomas, who had been in India before, knew the language, and offered to go back as a missionary. For some time after reaching India