

for the report that I have been dissuaded from returning to India. Neither by word nor deed have I ever given the least public encouragement to it. True it is, that many have attempted to dissuade me, and more than once have the most tempting offers of useful and honourable employment at home been placed within my reach. But I have uniformly resisted all such solicitation, and peremptorily declined all such offers. Again and again have the horrors of past affliction been cruelly resurrected, in order to scare me by the dread of future suffering. Still, though thrice brought to the very brink of the grave by successive attacks of some of the most virulent tropical diseases, and though not yet perfectly restored to wonted health and strength, I greatly rejoice in spirit that God has empowered me to feel, and thankfully to declare, that so long as He appears to have any work in reserve for me in India, its pestiferous atmosphere has no terror for me.

2d. As to the sphere of usefulness in Aberdeen, to which you so forcibly and justly draw my attention, God forbid that I should undervalue it. Its equal in magnitude may elsewhere be found, but in all Scotland I do not believe it can be surpassed. Pardon me, however, for sincerely cherishing the belief, that the field of India is transcendently greater. For your thousands we have our millions, endowed with immortal souls, alike precious in the sight of Heaven. Your thousands have been born and brought up in a Christian land of "gladsome light and liberty;" our millions in a region of heathen bondage and pagan darkness, that "may be felt." Your thousands have been replenished with stores of the "bread of life," and the "water of life;" our millions are still furnishing in a dry and parched wilderness, wherein no waters be. Your thousands have already professed to throw aside the weapons of unnatural rebellion, and acknowledge their allegiance to the King of Zion; our millions are, up to this moment, in fierce battle array—raging against the Lord and his anointed. Your narrow, subjugated domain, therefore, requires only a peace

establishment to retain it in quiet possession; our almost boundless hostile territory seems to demand equally boundless resources to level its frowning citadels, and establish the kingdom of the Messiah on the ruins of Satan's empire.

3d. The inducement to labour amongst an awakened, devoted Christian people, is a sufficiently potent one. But it must be borne in mind that my feelings and affections are, to a great extent, preoccupied by a small but attached band of Christian disciples in the East; for whom I have laboured and travailed in pain, that they might, through the influence of God's Spirit, be born again, and so become sons of God—heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ. Some of them, I know, deeply mourn my temporary absence; and numbers more are looking with eager, longing eyes, for my return. Oh, then, how would their confidence be shaken—how would their reasonable anticipations be blasted—were they to hear that I had been persuaded to prefer the soft and downy repose of "a living" at home, to the arduous struggle of joining with them in hastening the birth-day of their country's emancipation from the long, dark night of Satan's reign, and sin's uncontrolled dominion!

4th. Were I to remain in my native land, it would doubtless be still in my power to do something by way of advocating the claims of poor, benighted India. In that case, however, methinks my tongue would not only falter, but often "cleave to the roof of my mouth." Fearlessly and unsparingly have I reprobated the indolence and cowardice of those who keep lingering, lounging, and loitering at home in lazy expectation of some snug peaceful settlement: instead of nobly marching forward into the wide field of the world, to earn new trophies for their Redeemer, by planting his standard in hitherto unconquered realms. Neither have I suppressed my honest indignation at the no less criminal supineness of others, who, having once obtained such settlements, ingeniously devise a thousand petty, frivolous pretences, for continuing to wrap themselves up in the congenialities and luxurious indul-