

for religious uses, and great was the surprise when it was discovered that the amount of the collection contributed for the day was nearly equal to the whole collection of any previous year. Before leaving the house the native members assembled in meeting and resolved upon the organization of a Missionary Society, and a subscription was made on the spot equal to \$16 per month. It was determined to organize one or more schools in the mountain villages, to be supported entirely by the funds of the Latakiah Missionary Society. In less than five months about \$100 are available for the purpose. If liberal giving be, as we know it is, a proof of the reality and power of Divine grace in the heart, we have this evidence remarkably developed in the church at Latakiah, a number of whose members are giving for the use of the Gospel at the rate of one-fifth of their gross income. What an example to those who in point of privilege are unspeakably better off, and what an encouragement to those who during the past years have been sending their benefactions in this direction. Already they are finding the bread cast upon the waters days ago. A grand point is gained when the first step is taken, and earnestly taken, by the native church in Syria for the evangelizing of its benighted and perishing people."

To the south of this very district, among the villages of the Lebanon range, took place in 1860, a frightful massacre of Christians, wherein perished some of the converts and missionaries of the Irish Presbyterian Church. We can well believe, therefore, that the present time must be one of self-denial, faith and heroic courage, to keep their ground on the part of the little band of Christians. In a sense not at all sentimental, but intensely real, do we seem to hear the refrain,

"HOLD THE FORT!"

coming to us across the waters of the sea and ocean from the little band whose leader, Dr. Metheny, writes as follows:

"Nearly all the able-bodied Moslems were called to arms. What bitter feelings were thereby excited may be well imagined. They constantly said, 'Why go so far from home to kill Christians?' The constant embarking of new recruits and arrival of others, kept up this feeling, producing a reign of terror among the Christians. This still continues to a great extent. At one time we had almost concluded to send the ladies and our children to Beyrout. To leave Latakiah would be a great expense, and would imply the disbanding of those little ones left by Providence in our care. It would also imply the giving up of our mission buildings to destruction, as our departure would have been the signal for the immediate removal of many Christians from the city. As the feeble 'spall and mud' fence surrounding our premises would not be any barrier to a mob—simple and all as mobs are here without appliances—we saw that the only thing we fear could be best guarded against by building a stone wall around the entire premises. This accords with the usages of this city. Our three next-door neighbours have high walls around their lots. Indeed, the wall immediately opposite to us is from nine to twelve feet high. How necessary that girls, school teachers and mission families should be protected from view, trespass, and if possible, from violence and murder! After prayerful deliberation, Mrs. Metheny determined to build the wall at her own expense, but her weakness in-