


governing native churches by societies abroad should be discontinued as soon as possible. There was a time when perhaps this was necessary but, like many other things in India, the time had come when a readjustment of operations should be made to meet the present exigencies. It would be well to take a lesson from apostolic times. The modern missionary, when, by the grace of God, converts are made, usually settles among them as their permanent pastor, whereas in the early days of the Church the missionary or the evangelist passed on to new fields of labour, leaving the company of believers to regulate their own affairs. Rev. J. L. Phillips, American Baptist Mission, Midnapur, referred to the difficulty foreign missionaries had in becoming acquainted with the idiosyncrasies of speech and life found in India. The previous evening, as he listened to the lecture of Keshub Chunder Sen, he could not but feel that the natives of the soil must win India for Christ. In Burmah recently a boatman, who was earning 60 rupees per month, was converted. One day the missionary said to him, "I see you are a good talker; will you go and preach among your people—can you do it for five rupees a month?" The boatman thought a moment, and then replied, "No, I can't do it for five rupees a month, but I can do it for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ." God give us that sort of men all over India.

There can be no doubt that this conference will encourage the missionaries and give a fresh impetus to their work. It has given the Christian religion greater prominence in the eyes of the heathen than it ever had before.

### Proportionate Giving.

 OUR American cousins have made themselves famous for their giving. The donations of private individuals to religious and philanthropic objects have been upon a princely scale. We are surprised to notice that fears are being expressed in some quarters that, perhaps, in this respect the Churches of the United States have seen their best days. We do not believe there is the slightest foundation for such fears. We rather believe that what we have seen and heard are only to be regarded as the drops that precede the coming shower. Within the last few weeks two millionaires—both members of the Presbyterian Church—have passed away leaving a bright example to all who are similarly blessed with ample means, to do likewise. We refer to the Hon. William E. Dodge and Governor E. D. Morgan, both of New York. At the time of their death they were said to be worth between six and seven millions of dollars

each. In their lifetime they were both liberal contributors to educational, ecclesiastical, and charitable purposes, men who seemed to realize their Christian stewardship. Mr. Dodge bequeathed about half a million of dollars for benevolent purposes, leaving for Foreign Missions \$100,000, for Home Missions 50,000, and for the education of young men for the ministry \$50,000. The money that he left by no means indicates his success in business, nor is his liberality to be measured by his legacies. It is said that during some years his contributions to benevolent and charitable objects amounted to \$1,000 per day, and besides this he devoted a great deal of his time in works of philanthropy. He was especially noted for the interest he took in young men and for the help he gave them in the prosecution of their studies and in other ways. Governor Morgan left \$795,000 for similar purposes—\$100,000 each for Home and Foreign Missions, \$50,000 for the supplementing of the salaries of ministers engaged in Home Missionary work, and \$300,000 for Theological education. Dr. Cuyler, in speaking of Mr. Dodge's death, is reported to have said:—"The secret of Mr. Dodge's power lay in the first hour of every morning. That hour he gave to God with his Bible and on his knees, and if he came down among business men with his face shining with cheerfulness and loving-kindness it was because he had been up in the mount in communion with his Master."

In Canada we have, as yet, only a very few millionaires, but we have a large number of people who are "well-to-do." They have enough to live upon comfortably, and something to spare. Upon the whole they are a good sort of people—well-disposed. But, in the matter of proportionate giving—this "one thing we lack." There is a good deal of money given every year for religious purposes, but the usual method of giving is largely "haphazard." We give what we think we can spare when an appeal is made to us, according to momentary impulse; but, too often, the mood passes away and selfishness comes with its cold grip to chill the sympathies and paralyse the hand. There is a more excellent way. We know, or at least we should know, our own income. Let us consider and decide how much *we ought* to set apart for missionary and benevolent purposes. This decision once arrived at should be adhered to until there is good reason to revise it. Regularity, punctuality, and a due sense of responsibility are all important elements in this matter. If we resolve to give one-tenth, or one-fifth, we must adhere to our resolutions—even if the shoe pinches. See brethren, "that ye abound in this grace also." A man is never the poorer; he is ever the richer for what he wisely and lovingly gives to the Lord.