

REALIZATION.

(The Spirit of Missions, N.Y.)

HE two great factors in Christian missions are Christ and His Church. Primarily and chiefly Christian missions contemplate the making known of Christ, the Saviour of the world and of all mankind, to the heathen who have not known Him and who are perishing without God and without hope. The one burden of Christian missions is, therefore, Christ and Him crucified; the proclamation of His Gospel of redeeming love, of Divine reconciliation, of the forgiveness of sins, and of life everlasting. What a theme! How the angels who serve before His throne day and night would rejoice in the privilege which is thus accorded to mortal beings! With what energy, zeal and enthusiasm would they engage in that most exalted of all occupation! Why is it that man, to whom has been committed this glorious service, does not enter into it with the same degree of fervor, appreciation, joy, and earnestness? It is because he undervalues the merits of His Saviour's vicarious work, or questions its efficacy among the heathen, or has no interest in or desire for the proclamation and propagation of His Gospel throughout the world? Nay, these are not the reasons: As a Christian man—and of such only are we speaking—he fully believes in the merits of Christ's mediatorial work, and of its power to save, redeem, and bless all mankind, and would rejoice to see the whole world filled with the knowledge of the Lord. No, the great fault lies not here, but in the solemn fact that men do not realize the full import and significance of these great truths; they believe them all, and accept them, but fail to grasp them as living verities, filling their souls with that fullness of expression that must find opportunity to rush forth and proclaim it, as the herald in olden days on an occasion of a great victory ran hither and thither announcing the glad tidings.

It is a lack of realization, the absence of a present felt appreciation of a great fact dimmed by the apathy of things that have become old or common in the knowledge of men. If every Christian man and woman in the world fully realized the living, actual presence of Christ, fully appreciated what it meant to be His ambassador, commissioned by Him to bear His message to all people, what think you would be the result? How many thousands instead of hundreds would—directly or indirectly—find themselves hurrying with eager feet to bear the Gospel to the heathen! Think of the amount of energy and enthusiasm that would be set free, of the opening of new enterprises, and of the setting into activity of the latent

forces now locked up behind the fast-closed gates of spiritual inertia!

What is true concerning the realization of the Person of Christ and His work is equally true of His Church. It is lamentable to see with what apathy and indifference Christian people enter into the work of extending the Church of Christ throughout the world. It is not so in temporal affairs; men rush with all eagerness into business prospects, willing and ready to jeopardize property, riches, health, everything to gain their ends. Business men everywhere feel that stagnation is ruination, and advance the only condition of success. Alas! there is no such enthusiasm in regard to the Church—the Kingdom of God upon earth. Her interests seem to be secondary: if she advances the Christian world rejoices, but if she does not no one is ready to take the responsibility. And why? The answer is the same: Want of realization. The Christian world is not fully keyed up to the high tone of its privilege and responsibility. Christian men and women do not fully apprehend the nature and character of the Kingdom of God; they do not feel its import and significance; they do not seem at all conscious of the fact that that Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom—the Kingdom of the Eternal God, the Kingdom of righteousness, of truth, and of life.

Full realization of these facts would arouse such an enthusiasm as the world has never seen; such power as that which fell upon the nascent Church on the Day of Pentecost. Every one professing the name of Christian would be found foremost in the struggle of the Church against sin and wretchedness, laboring with all zeal to plant the Divine standard of truth and righteousness where now only heathen superstition and abject vice prevail.

"Stir up, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the wills of Thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by Thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*"

THE PROVINCIAL SYNOD.



HE late meeting of the Provincial Synod was looked forward to by some with considerable anxiety, inasmuch as it was learned from the Agenda Paper sent out by the Secretaries before its meeting that strong efforts would be made to put an end to the present existing Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and Board of Missions by immediately merging them in the so called General Society and General Board of the General Synod. Although this end was urgently sought and contended for in the Lower House and carried by a considerable