

THE CRISIS AT HAND IN FOREIGN MISSIONS.

I wish to speak briefly of *greater prayerfulness* as one thing that is essential at this stage of the Foreign Mission work. The Church needs to come to her knees in strong wrestling prayer in order to insure success in the work. We may raise the money, as I believe we will, to place large reinforcements in the open fields, the number of consecrated men and women who go to the heathen may be greatly increased, schools filled with pupils may be established, in short, all the machinery may be running in fine order, yet, unless the blessing of God attends the work, it is all in vain. He alone can "give the increase." And we can expect that blessing only in answer to prayer.

I was struck lately in reading a report a missionary gave of his work. He said that it was so hard to get the heathen to see that they were guilty before God, and that they did not seem to have any sense of sin. That shows so clearly the need of the Holy Ghost. "He shall convince the world of sin." The heathen need to feel their guilt, then they are ready to accept the Saviour. But we can expect the Spirit to work in his convicting power only in answer to prayer. It was after a prayer-meeting of ten solid days that he came in such power at Pentecost. It was after the whole night was spent in prayer that he descended in such wonderful power in Scotland during the preaching of Livingstone. The night had been spent in prayer at Enfield when the assembly was overcome with awe under the sermon of Jonathan Edwards. So when the Holy Ghost descends in convicting and converting power some one has been praying. He comes in answer to prayer.—*S. M. in Phil. Pres.*

A JUST REBUKE.

The owner of the famous Wedgewood potteries, in the beginning of this century, was not only a man of remarkable mechanical skill, but a most devout and reverent Christian. On one occasion, a man of dissolute habits, and an avowed atheist, was going through the works, accompanied by Mr. Wedgewood, and by a young lad who was employed in them, the son of pious parents. Lord C—— sought an early opportunity to speak contemptuously of religion. The boy at first looked amazed, then listened with interest, and at last burst out into a loud, jeering laugh.

Mr. Wedgewood made no comment, but soon found occasion to show his guest the process of making a fine vase; how with infinite care the delicate paste was moulded into a shape of rare beauty and fragile texture, how it was painted by skilful artists, and finally passed through the furnace, coming out perfect in form and pure in quality. The nobleman declared his delight, and stretched out his hand for it, but the potter threw it on the ground, shattering it into a thousand pieces.

"That was unpardonable carelessness!" said Lord C——angrily. "I wished to take that cup home for my collection! Nothing can restore it again."

No. You forget, my Lord," said Mr. Wedgewood, "that the soul of that lad who has just left us came pure into the world. That his parents, friends, all good influences, have been at work during his whole life to make him a vessel fit for the Master's use; that you, with your touch, have undone all the work of years. No human hand can bind together again what you have broken."

Lord C——, who had never before received a rebuke from an inferior, stared at him in silence. Then, "You are an honest man," he said, frankly holding out his hand. "I never thought of the effect of my words."

There is no subject which young men in college are more fond of discussing than religion, too often parading the crude, half-comprehended atheistic arguments which they have heard or read before whom such doubts are new.

Like Lord C——, they "do not think." They do not, probably, believe these arguments themselves, and they forget that they are infusing poison into healthy souls, which no after efforts of theirs can ever remove. A moment's carelessness may destroy the work of years.—*Youth's Companion.*

ROME IN AFRICA.

The Roman Catholic Church, by the recent action of the German government, has been awarded exclusive missionary jurisdiction over a territory of about two thousand square miles in East Equatorial Africa. This preemption of a missionary region in the interests of Romanism is hailed by the *Catholic Review* as inaugurating a new policy of allowing representatives of only one religion in a single field, and the German government is commended for introducing this new method of fostering the spread of Christianity. Protestants familiar with the history of Roman Catholic Missions are not favorably impressed with governmental regulations of this sort.—*Sel.*