

## Mission Field.

### THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS.

A MISSIONARY SERMON BY THE RIGHT REV. BRANSBY KEY, D.D., LORD BISHOP OF ST. JOHN'S, KAFFRARIA.

*Preached at the Provincial Synod.*  
"The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."—REVELATION xxii. 2.

CONTINUED.

The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. None else but Christ made those dead bones live. In the times of their ignorance they had certain safeguards, as we have seen; life in the old time was hard; it was hard to win livelihood, hard to keep when won, and that hardness kept the body politic from rotting. But those things are passing away; those old heathen virtues are becoming things of the past, and melt away, like snow before the sun, when brought into contact with our civilisation. And the dead husk which remains will breed nothing but a moral corruption in our midst, unless it is reanimated by a soul, by a life which Christ alone can give. Christ is the only solvent under which those masses can take new forms. Always a blessing as I believe Christianity to be, at the present time I hold it an overpowering necessity (the neglect of which will one day cause infinite trouble, socially and politically) that these tribes of South Africa should have the Church of Christ brought within their reach, and that soon. We must teach them, as thousands are ripe to be taught, the elements of morality, truthfulness, and purity, by all the many ways God has put into our hands, and these virtues have to be built on the one foundation of Christ.

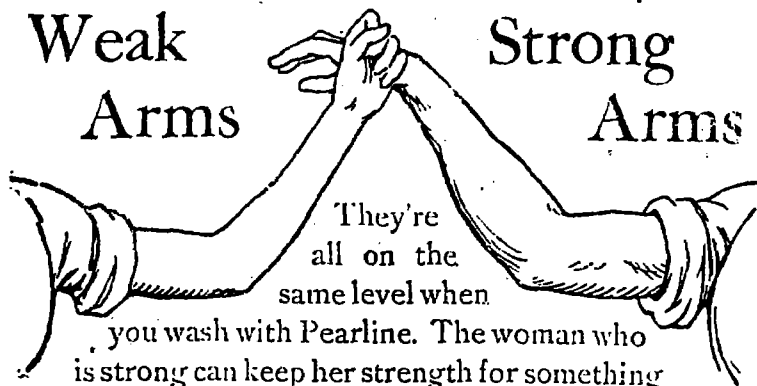
By all the many ways God puts into our hands, and, one of these is education—perhaps the most important of these aids which are given us, subservient always to the faith of Christ. Most wisely did Bishop Gray found the College of Zonnebloem for training of native youths; but if it was necessary then, it is a hundred times more so now. Our Government is placing education within the reach of all, of whatever class or colour, and anyone who knows the natives is aware how eagerly in many parts of the colony they are availing themselves of it. There is a craving for education among the Kafirs, and we must use this aid more than we have hitherto for the formation of a more or less educated native ministry, without which it will be hopeless to attempt to cope with the thousands which our rapidly increasing frontier is bringing into contact with us.

Too much stress can hardly be laid on this part of our Mission work—the selection and careful training of young men for the ministry, not only to minister to their own immediate neighbours and fellow-clansmen, but by God's grace to have their souls, too, fired with a burning zeal for Christ, and to go in due course away to the distant tribes to the northward, of which we are now only beginning to hear. And this we may do with God's help. So that thus, while the Provincial Synod is pushing on, as, thank God, we are doing, into the regions beyond our own colonial boundaries, we of the older Missionary dioceses may feel that we are all working together.

And now, my brethren, I leave this subject. We on the frontier are at work—it is our life's work. I pray you in the great metropolis of South Africa to work together with us, and you may do this in more ways than one. Specially you may do so by a fair judgment on this great question of Missions to the heathen, which I have not hesitated to say, even as a political question, ought to be one of the absorbing matters of the day. Give us your fair judgment. Do not run away with the popular cry that Missions are spoiling the natives, but back us by your prayers, and your alms also. And if God should put it into the heart of anyone to come and help us, let him not thrust the idea away as foolish or quixotic; for I can promise anyone who comes to help us, with the love of God and man in his heart, a work of a most intense interest. Men will go far and suffer hardship for trade, for sport, for science; some will penetrate into the heart of Africa and brave danger to study flowers and beetles—and is not man a more worthy study than these? To get to know these wild tribes, who have grown up through so many years with a language and habits all their own; to get to know them in their homes; to watch their first suspicions die away; to win their confidences; to learn their strange forms of speech, and find the human soul that lies within their dark eyes—souls not so very different from our own. And having learned this, not to pass on, but to watch, under God's grace, the soul growing light, the sense of sin being evolved, and the love of truth and purity, the love of Christ, slowly growing up. To do this as Christ's work, is not that a life worth living?—*S.P.G. Mission Field.*

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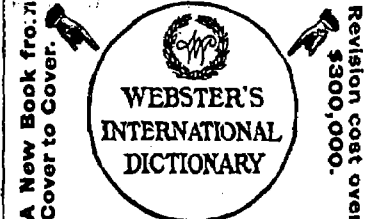
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