

fanatic, which have literally girded the globe with a chain of missionary stations, and those who now speak scornfully of missions are simply men behind their age. The heathen-oracles are dumb, their temples are decaying, their philosophies are undermined, their creeds are honey-combed with distrust under the advance of western civilization, and the one supreme question is whether their place is to be filled by the adoption of an agnostic morality or by the acceptance of Christian truth. For, despite the poetic fancy which invests non-Christian religious systems with an aureole of Christian sanctity and beauty, they have been weighed and found wanting in power to meet the deepest wants of mankind. Whatever their rightful place may have been under Providence in the education of humanity; whatever the virtues they are calculated to promote among peoples in a certain stage of mental or material development; however beautiful the theory or elevated the ethics which some of them embody or enjoin—we cannot accept them as a substitute for Christianity, or withhold its higher light from those who sit beneath their shadow."

We must not forget how the missionary spirit aids the churches at home, by widening their outlook and preventing clannish selfishness, and by giving a better conception of self-sacrifice through knowledge of the work and heroic workers in the foreign fields. Foreign missions give to the church the finest types of Christian zeal, character and heroism. Would that all our churches were missionary churches, and every man, woman and child in them a missionary!—*Mission Studies*.

HOW TO PRAY FOR MISSIONS.

At the present hour the most urgent need of foreign missions is not so much of men and money, although these are indispensable, but of those instant prayers without the aid of which the most favorable external circumstances remain sterile. Oh, could we be impelled to pray more: not to repeat incessantly the phrase, more or less empty, "O God! bless the heathen and the missionaries," but to pray like those "violent" who, so to speak, wrestle with God, and to whom it pleases Him to give the victory. Let us humble ourselves, let us confess our failures in this respect, and ask of God to pour upon us the spirit of intercession.

One day, returning from an evangelizing tour, I had the feeling that I had failed completely, and I said so with tears to an old friend who was a praying woman. "It is a little my fault," she instantly replied: "I ought to have prayed much for you." At the beginning of my missionary life I received into my house six little orphans, bereaved in a famine. Some months after their arrival I experienced a great spiritual refreshing and five of these children were converted. A month later, I had a letter from a blacksmith in Ohio, who said that he had been irresistibly impelled to ask God to restore my soul and to convert those children.

What could not our missionaries accomplish if our people labored in concert with them by fervent prayers?

When you pray thus for us, dear friends, what shall you ask? Oh, ask above all that God would Himself inspire our plan of work and that we may have no will but His. Ask also that we may live in the unity of the Spirit, for the lack of union among the Lord's workers in non-Christian lands is often the secret cause of their want of success. It is by our union in Christ as members

of His body that the world will believe that He was sent of God.

Pray for the health of our missionaries; ask strength of body and refreshment of spirit for those who have been long at the breach. Ask for the young that they may face with courage, and at the same time with prudence, the difficulties of a life absolutely new to them; ask facility in learning the languages and in adapting themselves to the climate and the food. Ask especially that Christ may reign over their whole being, for God cannot serve Himself mightily for the conversion of souls except with instruments consecrated to Him without reserve.

Ask God to prepare native evangelists; ask Him that our publications in European or in native languages may advance His kingdom.

Could you not, in some sort, adopt a missionary as your own representative in pagan lands, and pray for him and his work as if they were really your own? Could you not take possession of a country, of a district, of a missionary station, and give yourself no rest until God has shed His spirit upon this object of your best prayers?

An old lady said to me one day: "When you speak at your meetings could you not indicate to us also, old people who love missions but who, alas! have almost nothing to give, some way of being useful?" Very well, we address ourselves in a special manner to these aged friends who sigh because they have no power to do anything for our work, and we say to them: "To you above all belongs the great and beautiful task of supporting us by your prayers. We will count upon them henceforth, and we thank you in advance."—*Selected*.

Work Abroad.

TO THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF MANITOBA.

Dear Sisters.—Your request for a quarterly report reached me the first week in October. If anything I may be enabled to write will in any way serve to cement the bond between us more firmly, and quicken the interest of those who are, perhaps, slow to recognize the far-reaching purport of the Great Commission, most gladly I will comply with your request. God is placing wonderful opportunities within your reach of touching many nationalities, and my heart rejoices to hear from time to time of His manifest blessing upon your labors. I enjoyed Mr. Mellick's account of his tour amongst the Indians. And while He has given you so many blessed opportunities of service near at hand, I am so glad He has inclined your heart to do something for the multitudes here in Telugu land, who are as sheep without a shepherd. It is hard to realize the degradation to which idolatry leads and the dense superstition which is the outcome of idolatry also. A woman said to me one day after we had been trying to tell the Old, Old Story of salvation through Jesus Christ, which was a new story to her, "Amma, if I believe this, Nukalamma (a goddess) will eat me up." I asked if Nukalamma ate the food she put