

## HELP HIM.

Mr. Spurgeon, in answer to a member of an almost deserted church who writes inquiring how it may be filled again with worshippers, has given some excellent advice which may be useful to other people elsewhere. He says:

Quite enough for the pastor to fill the pulpit well, and that filling of the pews depended upon the zeal, the earnestness and the diligence of those with whom he commenced his ministry; if they would support him by their earnest co-operation the meeting-house would soon be full. I remember when I first came to London preaching to eighty or ninety in a large chapel, but my little congregation thought well of me and induced others to come and fill the place. I always impute my early success to my warm-hearted people, for they were so earnest and enthusiastic in their loving appreciation of "the young man from the country" that they were never tired of sounding his praises. If you, any of you, are mourning over empty pews in your place of worship, I would advise you to praise up your minister.

Another one says: Do not be afraid of doing too much for him. If he has a conscientious appreciation of his duties, no man can carry about with him higher views of life or more pressing anxieties and responsibilities. His labours for the race, especially his own flock, extend from the cradle to the grave. Help him.

## PREACHING THAT FITS CLOSELY.

Ministers should preach such doctrines as is most needful for the places and the people with whom they have to do. The physician administers not one kind of physic for all distempers. Some places are infamous for drunkenness, others for pride, others for weariness of the Gospel. The minister must suit his preaching to their exigencies. It is not enough in war for a soldier to discharge his musket though it be well charged with powder and bullet unless also he aim as well to hit the enemy. He who delivers good doctrine and reproofs but not suitable to the people whom he teacheth discharge up into the air. God commands the prophet to show the people their sins, not to show one people the sins of another, but their own. Some observe that Christ in his doctrine ever sets Himself most against the raging impiety of the times wherein he lived. But the trouble is people can be content to hear us preach of the sins of our forefathers, but not the sins of the present times. People will not take honey out of the lion except he be dead, nor taste sweetness in that preaching which is lively and roars upon them in the way of sin. A good heart considers not how smart but how reasonable a doctrine is. It desires that the word may be directed to it in particular. It sets its corruptions in the fore-front of the battle where God's arrows are flying and patiently suffers the word of exhortation.—*Jenkyu* (1656).

## HAPPINESS.

Make it a rule, and pray to God to help you to keep it, never, if possible, to lie down at night without being able to say: "I have made one human being at least a little wiser, or a little better, this day." You will find it easier than you think, and pleasanter. Easier, because if you wish to do God's work, God will surely find you work to do; and pleasanter, because in return for the little trouble it may cost you, or the little choking of foolish, vulgar pride it may cost you, you will have a peace of mind, a quiet of temper, a cheerfulness and hopefulness about yourself and all around you, such as you never felt before; and over and above that, if you look for a reward in the life to come, recollect this: What we have to hope for in the life to come is to enter into the joy of our Lord. And how did He fulfil that joy, but by humbling himself, and taking the form of a slave, and coming, not to be ministered to, but to minister, and to give His whole life, even to the death upon the cross, a ransom for many. Be sure that unless you take up His cross you will never share His crown; be sure that unless you follow in His footsteps you will never reach the place where He is. If you wish to enter into the joy of your Lord, be sure that His way is now, as it was in Judea of old, over every sinner that repenteth, every mourner that is comforted, every hungry mouth that is fed, every poor soul, sick or in prison, who is visited.—*Charles Kingsley*.

## A NEEDED REFORM.

Are fathers and mothers and heads of families justified in taking those papers which are daily filled with matter which is only fit for a police gazette or a dime novel of the worst class? Is that the stuff on which to feed young boys and girls? Is that the pabulum for young ladies of the household? Is it surprising that any who have such vile and wicked trash presented them should themselves catch the contagion of this leprosy? The conductors of newspapers say that the people demand what they supply. The truth is that the papers have made and stimulated and are increasing the demand, and that the people whom they are corrupting will rot in the impurity in which they live. The remedies are in both directions. The papers and the people must reform. It matters little at which end the reformation begins. But if the decent and religious people of the country will stop taking and reading these papers which offend, and will patronize only those which are decent, the needful change will soon be wrought. A purified and decided public opinion will compel managers and editors of papers which circulate among the better classes to respect the moralities of life and the laws of behaviour in the homes of the land.—*Christian Intelligencer*.

## THE KING'S SHIPS.

God hath so many ships upon the sea!  
His are the merchantmen that carry treasure,  
The men-of-war, all bannered gallantly,  
The little fisher boats and barks of pleasure.  
On all the sea of time there is not one  
That sailed without a glorious Name thereon.

The winds go up and down upon the sea,  
And some they lightly clasp, entreating kindly,  
And wait them to the port where they would be;  
And other ships they buffet, long and blindly.  
The cloud comes down on the great sinking deep,  
And on the shore the watchers stand and weep.

And God hath many wrecks within the sea;  
Oh, it is deep! I look in fear and wonder;  
The wisdom throned above is dark to me,  
Yet it is sweet to think His care is under;  
That yet the sunken treasure may be drawn  
Into His storehouse when the sea is gone.

So I, that sail in peril on the sea,  
With my beloved, whom yet the waves may cover,  
Say—God hath more than angels' care of me,  
And larger share than I in friend and lover.  
Why weep ye so, ye watchers on the land?  
This deep is but the hollow of His hand.

*Boston Transcript.*

## THE NEED OF MISSIONARY WORK.

1. The heathen are conscious of sin. Their religious works contain affecting confessions of sin and yearnings for deliverance.
2. The heathen feel the need of some satisfaction to be made for their sins. They have devised many penances and self-tortures. These do not give the conscience peace.
3. The heathen need a Divine Deliverer, one who can make the satisfaction and inspire the peace.
4. There is a command in the New Testament to go and disciple all the heathen nations in the name of this Deliverer.
5. This command emanates from the Supreme Authority.
6. This command is addressed to all living Christians in every age until every human being is converted.
7. The missionary spirit is the spirit of Christ; the soul or the church that does not possess it is dead.
8. If we love the person of Christ we shall desire that His glory shall fill all lands.
9. If we love the truth of Christ we shall be intent on its proclamation till every false religion is vanquished by it.
10. Our lineage is heathen. The missionary enterprise rescued us from paganism. Gratitude for our own emancipation and love for our brethren, the heathen of all countries, should move us with a mighty impulse to engage in the missionary work.
11. Success is certain, the Lord has promised it, the apostles illustrated it.
12. Duty, love, success—these are three magic words. Let us grasp the idea they suggest, and pray and work for all men, at home and abroad, until the church absorbs the whole world and rises up into the millennial glory.—*Henry M. Scudder, D.D., in the Advance*.

## MISSION NOTES.

ONE large commercial house in Valparaiso has for twenty years devoted one-fifth of its profits to benevolent and missionary objects there, and a partner in another house gives one-tenth of his income for similar purposes.

THE British Government has sent Captain Foot, of the Navy, to occupy the position of consul in the lake district of Central Africa. He is accredited to the kings and chiefs of Central Africa. He is thoroughly in sympathy with the mission work carried on in the vicinity of Lake Nyassa, Lake Tanganyika, etc.

THE women of China take a paper sold them by the priests on which is a picture of the goddess of mercy and of her boat of compassion, and a description of the Buddhist paradise. A woman will hang up one of these papers, light candles and burn incense before it, and cry, "O, Great Buddha," and every time she says it she will punch a hole in the paper with her needle. When that paper is full of holes, she will take another until she has used up seven of them. Each hole represents a prayer. The seven papers are taken and burned, which sends them all to the king of hell, who is supposed to forgive her sins.

A VERY interesting work is being carried on in Ashantee and on the Gold Coast of Africa by Swiss missionaries. Nine stations, with forty-one out-stations, have already been occupied. The members of the two congregations, including children, number nearly 5,000. Two of the missionaries, Messrs. Buck and Huppenbaner, recently visited Coomassie, when a friendly interview was had with the king, and, although he would not consent to receive a missionary, it is hoped that a good impression has been left upon his mind. The people readily attended the services, which were conducted by Messrs. Buck and Huppenbaner.

THE Free Church of Scotland has made a beginning in the establishment of a native church at Livingstonia, and has received five converts and their wives. "Albert Namalambe, the first convert, is with Dr. Laws at Bandawe, who describes him as knowing a great deal about the Word of God. Andrew Mwana Njobru is also at Bandawe, in the carpenter's shop, and goes out for evangelical work every Sabbath. Charles Hodde and James Brown are at Cape Maclear, and have a grasp of the truth which will aid them in spreading it in their neighbourhood." This mission has met with a great loss in the death of Mr. James Stewart.

A POOR Hindu, in the darkness of heathenism and guilt of sin, was searching for the way of happiness in the Oriental philosophy of his country. Priestcraft only made his darkness more intense, and the teaching of Confucius brought him no peace. Then for years he had sought for happiness in poojahs (holy places by the river, etc.), but all in vain. He chanced to hear the simple but sublime story of salvation by the precious blood of Jesus, as told by a missionary. Then, as never before, sin troubled him. His distress of mind was great. He sat up a whole night; he could not sleep. His fears, on account of his sins, were very great. He lost them. When asked how he lost them, he said, "They went away thinking of Jesus."

THE Bengal Census Report has the following very gratifying paragraph about the Native Church:—"The native Christians are the most rapidly progressing class in Bengal. It has been shown that they have increased, chiefly by conversion, at the rate of 64.07 per cent. during the nine years which have elapsed since the census of 1872, and it only remains to notice their distribution. Out of the whole number of 86,306 more than one-third, or 35,992, are found in Lohardugga, where a German Protestant Mission has long been labouring among the aboriginal and semi-Hinduized tribes of that district. That twenty-four Pergunnahs stand next, with 8,048; the converts of several Missionary Societies, both Protestant and Romanists. Dacca has 7,710, mostly Roman Catholics, and Nuddea 6,304, partly converts of the Church Missionary Society and partly members of a Roman Mission church in that district. Calcutta itself has comparatively few,—viz., a little more than 4,000, including the suburbs. Six other districts have more than 1,000 in each. Backergunge has 2,892, Furreedpoor 2,591, and Chumparun 1,814, in all of which districts the Roman Catholic Church has mission stations. The Santhal Pergunnahs have 2,718 and Singhbhum 2,688, where the Church Missionary Society and the German Lutheran Mission work respectively; and Cuttack, where a Baptist Mission has long been established, has 1,819."