

pendent organization, or secondly, to accept the proposal made by the English Board, or thirdly to become connected with the American Union.

That the first course would if practicable be the most desirable none can hesitate to concede. But is it practicable? For a long time, and contrary to the opinions of the oldest and best experienced of my friends, I believed or rather hoped, that it was, what was at first, however, only a slight mis-giving has after a closer examination of the matter, and a mature consideration of the facts in the case, come to be my deliberate conviction, namely, that independency of action is at present impracticable, that with the important teaching which we have received from experience, and in view of the additional knowledge which we have acquired respecting what is requisite and indispensable to the efficient action of a Board, it would be unwise and presumptuous again to attempt it. Presuming it thus to be conceded, that it is impossible to adopt the first course, and be at the same time an active and efficient Board. The next question is—shall the proposals of the English Board be accepted? That is—shall a missionary sent from this Board look to this Board alone for support, and when he reaches India proceed to labour in conjunction with one of the English missionaries at one of their stations enjoying all the privileges of a missionary of the English Board, and in return submitting himself to all their rules and directions, being to all intents and purposes their Missionary supported by the funds of this Board.

One of the most obvious objections to such an arrangement is that it calls away the attention of the Churches from that portion of the missionary field, on which their first efforts were made, and to which their first missionaries went, and for which they have been accustomed to feel and pray from the very beginning of the missionary enterprise.

For myself I can only say I have partaken deeply of the general feeling, ever since the first thought of missionary labour in a Foreign field took shape in my mind, I have been looking to Burmah as my place of destination. I regard it still with the same emotion as ever, and cannot feel at liberty at present to turn my face to a different quarter.

I need scarcely add, however, that as my connection with the Board is by no means a vital one, my views must not necessarily bias its action. It can only remain for me to add a remark or two respecting the third course of action above named—connection with the American Union.

This connection implies as you are aware an entire yielding up of all authority so far as your relation to the missionary is concerned into the hands of the American Union. Though this Board might continue to exist, still as it could do nothing authoritative in its relation to the missionary, its sole province for the present year at least, would be to superintend the collecting of funds, and to assist in every possible way to sustain a missionary spirit in the Churches.

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