

# Canadian Missionary Link.

Published in the interests of the Baptist Foreign Missionary Societies of Canada.

VOL. XXXIX.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1914.

No. 6

## DO WE PRAY?

Dr. Mott has returned from his last world-tour of Missions with a firmer, deeper conviction than ever of the power of the living Christ, and the need, power and efficacy of intercessory prayer. It has, evidently, mastered his mind, heart and life. The appalling need for Christ and His salvation, which he saw in Turkey, in Arabia, in Russia, in China, India, everywhere; along with the certainty that in Christian lands there is money, there are men and women amply to supply their great need if only they were at the Lord's command; and deeply impressed with the fact that the nations of the non-Christian world, great and small, far and near, are in a wonderful and hitherto unprecedented state of transition, forming a not-to-be-neglected opportunity for presenting Christianity to them NOW; these things, I say, what he has seen and what he knows—and no one sees or knows better these things than John R. Mott—have driven him back to God for resource and power. For "who is sufficient for these things?" To be driven back to God is, as every missionary, at least, knows, to pray. Only in proportion to our sense of the world's need, and of the awful battle that is being waged by every missionary in foreign lands, "not against flesh and blood," but against the "spiritual hosts of wickedness" that seemingly rage unhindered about them, and in proportion to our realization of the fact that only as God's power and resources are freed for action in and through us, will the great need of the world be met and the victory won—only in proportion to our spiritual and practical realization of these facts, we repeat, can we and will we pray with faithfulness and effect.

These are reasons why people do not pray. They are ignorant, or lazy, or selfish, or unbelieving. To which of these classes do you belong? They do not know how much of the world is without Christ, or what it means for a whole nation to be Christless. They are too lazy to inform themselves, or too lazy to take time to pray. The selfish ones are not interested in the world, they care not how the other half lives—or dies. Then there are Christians, who do not believe that prayer accomplishes anything outside of themselves, as Jesus did, and as every mighty man of God has believed and does yet. "He could do no great work there, because of their unbelief."

"But we are not of those. We will shake off our indifference—we believe in prayer—we will search diligently and make time to pray. What shall we pray for?" Have you, then, forgotten so soon Bhutan and Nepal; for instance—"border states (of India), with a population of 5,250,000, wholly unoccupied?" What does that mean to you? How could you forget it, representing, as it does, "a starless sky, a bottomless need?" How would you like to live in any country, be it never so fair, that was "wholly unoccupied" by Christ or His evangel? Would your sweet daughter be safe? What sort of man would your son grow up to be? What strong hope, or confidence, would sustain you when crushing disaster, secret sorrow came to be your companion through life? Will you pray for them? Who will, if you will not? Do they pray for one another, think you, in the lands that are "wholly unoccupied?" "The harvest is, indeed, great, but the laborers are few. Pray ye, therefore." And if you really mean it, and will take upon your heart these countries,