

results ! Dr. Charles Hodge, in a letter to theological students on the subject of "The Call to Foreign Mission Work," says : "When a man has become a minister, the next question is, 'Where is he to go ?' This is not a question for him to decide. His position in this respect is analogous to that of an officer in the army. Such officer cannot say, 'I will go to such a post, because it is the most important or the most desirable.' So it is with the minister. . . .

"In the apostolic age some were sent to the Gentiles, some to the Jews (Gal. 2 : 9). So now it is the duty of some ministers to preach the Gospel at home, and of others to carry the glad news to the heathen. How is any man to know to which of these classes he belongs ? Just as he was led to know that he is called to the ministry at all."

The external call was never presented with greater force than when our Saviour directed the attention of His disciples to the "sheep without a shepherd," and to "the fields white to the harvest." He did not say, however, "Go to work at once and induce as many to go with you as possible ;" but what He said was, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he send [or thrust] forth more laborers into the harvest." Those whom God will use in the evangelization of the world must be men of His own choosing and His own sending.

It may be said, What, then, would you have earnest Christian young men who wish to serve the foreign mission cause do ? I answer, I would have them do just what they are doing, and with ever-increasing zeal and assiduity, but *with one exception*.

The principal measures which have hitherto been used by the Student Volunteers, and which cannot be too highly commended, are, first, summer schools and Bible classes for the purpose of presenting and emphasizing Bible teachings on this subject ; second, the disseminating of a missionary literature ; third, missionary lectures and conferences with returned missionaries. These are all efforts in the right direction. There can be no mistake about them, and they cannot be too vigorously made use of. The one exception which I would make is that of urging individuals to pledge themselves. The objections to this, some of which have already been referred to, may be summarized as follows :

First. It is unnecessary and gratuitous. The pledges of discipleship and of the Gospel ministry, which are of Divine appointment, are sufficient and have no need of being supplemented by further pledges. All actual duties are included in them, and the presumption is that additions to them will prove to be not only needless, but harmful.

Second. The wording of the pledge does not give due honor to God. As has already been stated, it makes very little of the internal Divine call. Its language is not, "As Thou wilt," but, "I will, if Thou permit." It gives to man the power of determining and to God that of preventing. Its terms, "I am willing and desirous, God permitting, to be a foreign missionary," might perhaps be construed to mean only that the one subscrib-