

REPORT.

The plan of redemption implies that mankind had forfeited their right to God's favour; that they were suffering the bondage of sin and the penalties of God's violated law.

The Foreign Mission enterprise, which we may regard as the echo of redemption and of the spirit of Christ, implies that there are those of our fellow-creatures who are still unreconciled to God, bound in the fetters of moral darkness and spiritual night, and groaning under the penalties of sin, because they are ignorant of the God who made them, the Saviour who redeemed them, and the gospel which can save them. Did the pioneers in this enterprise have false conceptions of the condition of the heathen when they sounded its key-note, and sacrificed time, money, home, and even life, in its interests? As well may we say that the Blessed Trinity had false conceptions with regard to the condition of the apostate race of Adam, when in the council chamber of heaven they undertook and adopted the plan to redeem that race by sending the Son to this sin-cursed earth to suffer and die.

Even now, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, while the greater part of the earth is enjoying the full blaze of gospel light, a large portion of its population are enshrouded in darkness deeper than that of midnight, and more fearfully felt than that which rested on the land of Egypt—a moral darkness, a spiritual gloom, a night of despair.

Millions, doubtless, there are, on whose pathway the sun of righteousness has never shone, whose physical, mental, moral, and spiritual degradation are so great as to render them miserable in the present and hopeless as to the future. These are imporingly looking up and asking for help, that they may know why they exist, what is their destiny, and where is the remedy for sin and its penalties.

And while these are facts, there are those, and even those who profess to be the friends of Jesus, who will excuse themselves from contributing to the Foreign Mission funds, and will even find fault with those who advocate Foreign Missions, for doing so, on the ground that "there are heathens at home," or that "the heathen are as well or better off in their ignorance, than they would be with the knowledge of God." And as perchance this Report will come to the notice of some of that class, it may be timely to remark that those referred to in the expression, "heathen at home," are in a manner "willingly ignorant" of the "things which belong to their peace." Amid such a blaze of gospel light as is shining "at home," they cannot fail to discover, at least, "a star," which would lead them to Jesus if they were willing to follow it. With regard to the idea, that the heathen are well enough off as they are, it is enough to say that those who will say that, and act according to that notion, must certainly "undervalue the privileges they enjoy themselves, or be grossly ignorant of the real condition of the heathen world," or their hearts need still to be touched with the softening influence of Christ's love. But, to use the language of the Apostle Paul, "Beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation (the salvation of the heathen), though we thus speak."

God has caused our ears to hear the heathens' cry of distress, our eyes to see their degraded and helpless condition, and our hearts to sympathize with them, and to respond to the call, "Come over and help us." He has in His providence given us an interest in the Mission enterprise, and opened to us an interesting and inviting field for operation. Already have our hearts commenced to beat in unison with that of our blessed Lord with reference to Him, salvation of the perishing; and in proportion as we have sacrificed with Him, and have marked the progress which has crowned our efforts, we have experienced "joy" similar to that for which He "endured the cross and despised the shame."

We have not yet received the last Annual Report from our Foreign Mission field, for some reason; but it has come to the hand of brethren in the United States, and we have learned something of its character.

Just like this life, it has its dark and bright parts. When reference is made to the death of one of the mission band (Bro. Smith), who was called away from his work in November last, the loss to the Mission, the destitution of

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