

we need only to be reminded that *God knows His own business*, and that all we have to do is to remember that nothing is impossible with Him.

Once more let it be put before us in bold capitals—

MISSIONS REPRESENT GOD'S OWN WORK,

for which He is responsible. We are accountable only for *our part* in it, which is neither to judge of its expediency or its efficiency, but to become His submissive instruments, obedient coworkers with Him in carrying out His eternal purpose.

The larger passage of Scripture, of which this is but the conclusion, contains also a pertinent *word of warning* :

"Beware therefore lest that come upon you which is spoken of in the prophets (notice the *plural*, as indicating a general drift of prophecy).

Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish ;
For I work a work in your days,
A work which ye shall in no wise believe,
Though a man declare it unto you" (Acts 13 : 40, 41).

This is a quotation and adaptation of two Old Testament prophecies : one in Isa. 29 : 14, and the other in Hab. 1 : 5. One prediction concerns the Jews, and the other the heathen. God foretells that both among Jews and heathen nations He is about to work a work, which shall be witnessed by competent testimony, but met with incredulity. Men shall wonder at it, while they behold, and despise and perish, while they wonder. And we can see it all true in these very days in which we live. Never was there such abundant and overwhelming witness that *God is at work* in missions, and yet never more abundant evidence of an unbelieving and even antagonistic spirit. The very generation that beholds the miracles of missions wrought, despises while it wonders, and perishes in sin while beholding the wonders of grace. God's work among the heathen is declared by competent witnesses, and yet it is not believed in as God's work, and even the Church of Christ is in danger of provoking God beyond endurance by sheer incredulity, inactivity and apathy. To-day nearly every missionary agency of the Church of Christ is retrenching expenditure where everything calls for expansion ; is refusing picked men and women, who are ready to go forth to the field, because debt embarrasses its operations ; is seriously considering not how to go forward, but how to go backward without surrendering immense advantages already gained, and sacrificing important strategic points and posts in the world campaign. And, to cap the climax, it is now calmly proposed to equip a commission to go forth and examine the whole work of missions and report, forsooth, whether the results justify the further prosecution of God's own enterprise!

O God, who hast in Thine infinite wisdom planned this work, and pledged Thy presence and power to those who cowork with Thee in carrying out Thy purpose to the end of the age, strengthen Thy servants reso-