

acquires a higher tone and energy from the active benevolence called forth by missionary enterprise.

It is not, however, past results merely, that should animate us in this holy cause. We must bend our gaze forward to the future, and dwell upon the bright hopes that gild the horizon. All the poetic fire of Hebrew bards, and the holy ardour of evangelists, have been put forth to paint, in glowing colours, the glorious prospect. Only a few straggling rays of the Sun of Righteousness now pierce through the mists of sin and ignorance that envelop our world; but a time will come when he will burst forth with all his effulgence. A time will come when the Redeemer's righteousness shall go forth as brightness, and his salvation as a lamp that burneth. Then shall all the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ. Then shall the sword be returned to its sheath, and the triumphing up in the hall. Can ye call yourselves Christians, and yet have no desire to put your hands to the work, and hasten this glorious consummation? The command is gone forth to prepare a highway for our God in the desert, and will ye not bestir yourselves to level a path for the feet of the Redeemer? Can there be an enterprise nobler than this—one more worthy of a candidate for immortality? You admire the misguided enthusiasm which thrilled the heart of Christendom, when the voice of the Hermit called the nations to arms, and bade them go forth to rescue the holy sepulchre from Moslem sway, and plant the cross where the crescent shone. The chivalry of the crusaders has been ever a favourite theme for song and story, and you cannot but admire their enthusiasm, while you pity their aim. But, my friends, the age of high and holy enterprise is not yet over. You are even now called upon to imitate the enthusiasm of the dark ages, but to bend your energies to a nobler object. You are called upon, not to plant the external symbol of our holy faith upon the stormed battlements of the enemy, but to plant that faith itself in the hearts of sinners. This call to arms in the spiritual warfare, each one of you is bound to obey. You may say 'what can my individual exertions avail?' As well might the soldier in the heat of battle, put up his sword and say, 'my single arm can do little to gain the victory, and I may as well be idle.' Never for a moment forget, that each of you has a work to do—that you were sent into the world for the special

object of doing that work, and that work is the advancement of the kingdom of God in your own heart, and in the world around you. Will you then dream on in indolence till the blast of the last trumpet declare that the opportunity of doing your work is gone—gone for ever. But think not that your work is done, and your conscience relieved, when you drop your mite into the missionary box. Your money is necessary, but your heart is more so. You must cherish and diffuse a missionary spirit. You must breathe forth your prayers and your sympathies for the blinded heathen and the devoted missionary. As an admirable means of keeping alive an active missionary spirit, I cannot recommend too strongly to your hearty support, the missionary societies established among you. While you take a general interest in missionary labours, you will find that local societies for special objects will tend greatly to rivet the claims of perishing souls upon your hearts. In what more becoming way could *you* who owe the position you occupy in society to the benign influence of Christianity, express your gratitude, than by seeking to have your fellow-subjects and sisters in India, emancipated from the yoke of an impure and degrading superstition. What task more worthy the character of woman, than to throw the shield of Christianity over the orphan girl abandoned by heathenism, and to provide for her a refuge and a home. I fervently trust too, that the Children's Society may not be unproductive of good. My dear young friends, you cannot begin too early to do something for Jesus, who did and suffered so much for your sakes. You cannot learn too soon that God expects you to do something more than live for yourselves. Oh! may you be convinced, before the alluring pleasures of the world render you deaf to the voice of wisdom, that the greatest pleasure to be enjoyed on earth, is that of doing good. Many of you I am sure, have felt something of this pleasure. When you lately laid down with willing hearts, your little sums to send a missionary ship to the far distant isles of the sea, how pleasant was it to feel that you *could* do good, and that you *were* doing it. And when you now follow in thought that ship, as she wafts the message of peace from isle to isle, do you not feel glad of being fellow-workers in such a noble enterprise. Though it were only a single nail to rivet her planks, or a single thread to weave her sails, you each contributed, still you look upon the ship as yours.