

Here am I, Lord, send me—send me to the ends of the earth; send me to the rough and savage pagans of the wilderness; send me from all that is called comfort in the earth; send me even to death itself if it be but in Thy service, and to promote Thy Kingdom.

DAVID BRAINERD.

### OUR MISSION BANDS.

In thinking of missions our thoughts turn naturally to that great human lever, William Carey, whom God, one hundred years ago, used, to lift India out of that darkness which crushed the spiritual and moral life out of its people. So great has been the transformation through the entrance of the Word that giveth light, and so rapidly has the Church taken up the work laid down by Carey, that this has been called the "Age of Missions." It has also been called the "Woman's Century," and no two words can, perhaps, be more significantly coupled than "Woman and Missions." She has wrought no mean part in this work which has done so much for her own spiritual advancement, and for the world. She has felt her Lord's need for her, and, as of old, He has allowed her to minister to Him.

Not only her heart, but her brain, has developed in His service, and both, consecrated, have led to the development of practical plans and organized endeavor. And now she asks herself, how can she further perfect the charge committed to her? Are all her resources in the best working order, ready at His word to bring the world in a line with His divine plan?

To me it appears that her best field of action, *not her only one*, for the furtherance of Foreign Missions, and for the bringing of the world speedily into Millenium glory, lies nearest to her close at hand, and bound to her, and *her* alone, as to no other.

We are apt to scan wide horizons—the near is often the distant. When Christ took a little child, and after placing him in the centre of the group of disciples, said, "Of such is the Kingdom of God," I wonder whether the listening disciples caught a glimpse of that wonderful object lesson? I wonder if we, the disciples of these later times, have got into the full meaning of it?

This little child—type of all child-life, must have had in its nature that which ran in harmony with God's plan, only needing the touch of development to be used in His service. The heart of the child is very near the heart of its Lord, and responds most quickly to His call.

Upon woman is laid most directly this responsibility of teaching the child to discern the joyful call to its spiritual inheritance.

What have we in the child-nature to meet our teaching? *Child-love, child-trust, child-enthusiasm, child-activity!*

Could we have a more precious gift to give our Lord than the labor needed for sowing in this field of the Lord's preparing?

What is needed on our part? Love for the Master; sympathy, love and patience towards the child.

We may have abundance of head-knowledge, plenty of theory about children, varied ways of discipline, but you can as easily make the proverbial horse drink as you can do your best with a child by the latter gifts without the former.

When shall we begin to develop a love of missions in the child? An old writer says: "A character is made at seven," and Goethe, that "It is early training that makes the master."

We need then to antedate the time. As soon as a child can take thought in, the ground is ready for use. The Roman Catholics have been wise in this respect. It is not rash to assert that could we have the training of Romish children until their twelfth year, the next generation would see that church in its death throes.

Where shall we begin? 1st, and primarily in the home. Who can weigh the responsibility that rests upon that home when a little immortal spirit enters, carrying within its being its stock of material for its earthly pilgrimage, to be either developed under the loving guidance of its parents, or ruthlessly scattered by the same hands? Can they see beyond the beautiful physical form, the still *more beautiful soul* that requires them, for its sake, to keep themselves unspotted from the world? If so, "it is well with the child."

Froebel says, "Come, let us live with our children." Thank God there are such homes. Are the parents interested in Missions? so are the children. Do the parents pray morning and evening for Missions? so do the little ones. Do the parents plan and talk on Missions, the little ones included, and the sympathy in their hearts, at times, overruns their eyes. But says one, "Nothing will interest my child, of that kind." Does it interest you? Is it a part of your daily life? Then pray and watch and wait, and expect. But if the little one has had only the love of self developed, all its lower wants gratified, the best part of your child is overlaid, awaiting, perhaps, another hand than yours to let in the light. To another shall belong the crown.

Secondly—In Mission Bands and Sunday Schools. The Woman's Missionary Aid Society is incomplete without its Mission Band. Its largest resource lies unworked. How to make the best of our Mission Bands is a subject for serious thought. The Band must make up for lack of home training, or supplement it. The Aid Society should be to its local Band what the Church is to the Sunday School. It should recognize it, visit it, and appoint times for the return of visits by delegates from the Band.

These return visits can be made pleasant by asking for a recitation or report from the Band through its delegate. The Society should have something to say about the Leader of the Band. There are some that are born