

1. Their deprivation of the public means of grace for years after their first entrance upon their foreign work. At home they were accustomed to the help of the prayer meeting, the class-meeting, the Sunday School, and the preaching, averaging perhaps one such powerful impulse to growth in grace for every forty-eight hours of their Christian lives. To these they probably attribute their very conversion, as well as their maintenance and growth in grace.

Upon entering the foreign field it is just as if they were at one fell stroke turned both deaf and dumb. They cannot hear a word of the Holy Scriptures so solemnly and movingly read from the sacred pulpit, nor the prayer, nor the sermon, nor a word of the hymns. Neither can they exercise their gifts and graces by speaking of the wonderful love of God as manifested in their own lives and experiences.

Even after two or three years have passed, O so slowly, in this agonizing way, and they have learned to use a few thousand words, these words seem made of "wood, hay, or stubble," or some other dreadfully dry material, for to those not educated from early years in a given language it represents no sentiment, no feeling to them, but only dry words, so cold, so meaningless.

2. The missionary is utterly isolated from what you call "society"—"Christian society."

This supports you at home. You do not always realize how much you owe both to the stimulus of your associations with those of "like precious faith" and equal Christian culture with yourself, and to the restraint which comes from a regard for their good opinion of you and of your life in God.

3. During this long strain upon the spiritual character of the missionary how exposed he must be to not only the ordinary temptations of life, but also to those more unusual ones, which, if consented to, will greatly undermine his usefulness.

While he is learning the language, it is just as important to learn the people, with their customs and manners, so as to know better how to approach and influence them. Now he will find, in all unevangelized lands, that the "many