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THOSE WHO STAY BY THE STUFF.

The following is an editorial copied from a recent number of the "Missionary Review of the World." In it are said some very important things in a clear and emphatic way, and it seemed we could not do better than pass it on for the perusal and careful thought of our readers. Before those of us "who stay by the stuff" take comfort from it, however, let us be very sure that we are in the calling which God has chosen for us, and let us not take it for granted that we are not among those who are to go down to battle.

"Among other circumstances having in Holy Scripture a conspicuous prominence, manifestly meant for emphasis, is the following:

As his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarryeth by the stuff: they shall part alike. And it was so from that day forward he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.

—1 Samuel xxx, 24 : 25.

This fixed decree has a universal bearing, and affects the whole world of the church universal at home and abroad. There is a pathetic legend that when the church of St. Sophia was building at Constantinople, in 325 A.D., a poor bedridden woman who, from her window saw the oxen slipping back on the rough roadway as they toiled up the hill dragging the heavy stones for the structure and tearing their hoofs, she had the straw from her own pallet scattered on the roadway to help these struggling beasts of burden: and that, when the day of dedication came, the name of

this obscure "Maria" was found engraved by unknown hands on its portal. In all God's work those who are kept at home, and tarry by the stuff; who by prayer, almsgiving, heart-yearning, are helping others to know the facts, to go and to plead, and to give, shall have equal share in the final results and reward. We know a hopelessly invalid woman in Manchester, England, whose heart is in China and has been for many years, but whose body is unequal to the trial of voyage and service; yet her serene peace, sacred enthusiasm, unceasing prayer, systematic giving, have stimulated many another to read and give and pray and go. Manifestly, all are not called to the front; otherwise there could be no line of communication kept up between the church at home and the host abroad — and whence would come the supply wagons with their sacred freight of Bibles and tracts, money and what is far more precious, the invisible contributions of love and community of interest! Truly the one essential thing is "let every one in that calling wherein he is found, therein abide with God." The secret of all co-operation lies not in the sphere of action or kind of activity, but in the spirit of service. God alone knows where each may be of most use and He distributes to each severally as He will. One may be in China un-called and unblest; another may be in America, yearning after China, but recognized and rewarded as if there actively engaged. What a wonderful God we are serving, to whom "if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted, not according to what one hath not, but according to what he hath."