

"First and foremost, our Lord's command. In the Bible we have been reading, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to the whole creation.' Does 'go' mean stay? And does 'preach the Gospel to the whole creation' mean keep repeating that gospel to a few, while two-thirds of our race have never heard the name, Jesus?"

"Again we go, *Because the needs of the foreign field are so much greater.* Our hearts' desire and prayer to God for America is that it might be saved; but we go because the need abroad is a thousand-fold greater. This is so in some countries from a purely numerical standpoint. In the United States there is one minister to 700 people; in China, one ordained missionary to 1,000,000. Of the 200,000,000 of Africa, 140,000,000 have not been touched by Christian teachers. The United States has 80,000 preachers; while India, with five times the population, has but 700 ordained missionaries.

"A third reason is, *The reflex influence of foreign missions on the spiritual life of the home Church.* Many minds ask the question, Does not this uprising mean a decline to the work at home? A prominent evangelist of our country when asked what he thought of it, replied, 'I rejoice, for it means *revival* at home.' The Week of Prayer was suggested by missionaries in India. Though carried out with reference to foreign needs, the first week in January has become a time of spiritual awakening at home.

"Fourth, *Because of the 'Present Crisis.'* The fields are white; the harvest must be gathered *at once*, or be lost. This is our golden opportunity.

'We are living, we are dwelling
In a grand and awful time;
In an age on ages telling,
To be living is sublime.'

"Are we alive to the fact that the hosts of evil are rushing forward to gather these golden sheaves? The Mohammedans are at work in Africa. Thousands of the aborigines are yielding to them because Islam appeals to the sensuous, and is propagated by the sword. A missionary who has labored twenty years in India, says, 'India is now ready for our work, and if this crisis is not met by the Church, at least two or three generations will pass before an equal opportunity can again be offered.'

"From Brazil the word comes, 'This land is ready; thousands would accept the Gospel if they only had preachers.' One writes concerning China, 'A thousand missionaries are worth more if sent now, than ten thousand ten years from now.' As for Japan, it is melted, and ready for moulding. *What shall the mould be, Christianity or infidelity?*

"One reason more, *The whole world can be evangelized in the present generation.* 'Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.'

"And now, 'for the sake of the name'—that Name which is above every name, 'the love of Christ constraining us,'—'we go forth.' Will you not 'take us up' and 'set us on our journey worthily of God,' that the blessed name may be spread abroad, and that you may be 'fellow-workers for the truth?'"

Our Young Folk.

CRUEL CROCODILES.

BY THE REV. ROBT. SPURGEON.

CROCODILES are found in most rivers in India, and especially near the sea, where the tide, when it goes down, leaves a broad mud bank. There they bask in the sun. Usually they are covered with mud, and as they lie asleep in the warmth of the sun's rays one can hardly tell them from logs of wood or trunks of trees. You may see them arouse themselves at the report of a gun, and go splash, splash, splash into the water one after another. The oars of our boat also disturb them, and as we draw near they glide off the mud bank into the stream. In many of the Bengal rivers sand-banks form, and, when the tide is low, these are covered with crocodiles too. Many of them are of an immense size. Their teeth, too, are very numerous. One that Mr. Edwards shot in the district of Backergunge had over sixty. It was not one of the largest, however, for it only measured nine feet in length. We had let off our guns at many before, but without any success. Their skins are thick, and bullets glide off. This one was lying asleep on the mud, and presented an excellent target. The ball went in at the right shoulder. The creature could only gasp and struggle. It tried first to glide down the mud and dive into the river, but failing this it tried to wriggle beneath the mud. One of the boatmen at last pushed a rope under it, and it was pulled on to the deck of the boat. As it had to pass through the water on its way, most of the mud was washed off; but it was difficult to kill the creature even when taken captive. When its head had been chopped off its tail still flapped to and fro, to the danger of all on board.

The crocodiles are usually very lazy and quiet. It is a marvel how they live. We know that many natives who bathe in the rivers are killed by them. Near some houses a bamboo fence is placed firmly in the water to keep the monsters out, and so the people can fearlessly bathe there. It is when the natives go into the water at other places the crocodiles kill them. Their plan is to snap hold of an arm or a leg of their victim and pull the poor thing into the water. Once drowned the corpse becomes an easy prey. "Cannot the bather see the ugly thing coming?" perhaps you say. No, he cannot; because the water of all Indian rivers is very muddy, and that hides the enemy. It reminds me of the secret way in which Satan glides about to destroy men's souls. Have you ever thought of it? If you have, I am sure you will help to send Missionaries who shall try to pluck men from his jaws. What a sad state must theirs be who are in danger of remaining in his grasp for ever; Do you not hear them crying out, with arms uplifted, "Come over and help us! We are sinking fast into eternity! Satan is drawing us down, down, down! Oh, come to our aid!" If you know their danger to be so great, you will do all you can to help. Think it over, then, till your heart seems full of pity toward the millions of India who now "lie in the wicked one."