

hard to break as the rocks of the mountains, oppose the missionary on every hand. The caste system in India, with many things almost equally antagonistic in other lands, presents almost insuperable barriers to effective work. And then, after all these things have yielded to the persistence of the missionary, and access is gained to the heathen man, the greatest obstacle of all is frequently encountered in the dense darkness which shrouds his mind. How shall the soul ever be reached and saved through a mind that has no higher conception of God than that He is fashioned by human hands out of wood or stone?

Such privations and hindrances are enough to affright the timid. It is only brave men and women who volunteer for such work as this. This work, too, demands men of commanding ability. There must be intellectual abilities of a high order, zeal, persistence, consecration, heroism, to win success against such unfavorable odds. And such have been the men, and such are the men who have made, and are making, foreign missions successful. It is doubtful if the world ever saw grander examples of moral heroism than have been given in this field. The Careys, the Judsons, the Boardmans of the past were men of renown; and the faithful missionaries of the present, both male and female, are no less worthy of admiration. Those are persons who could command the best places at home. Such characters are in demand everywhere. They would not lack for remunerative positions, admiring friends, and a goodly share of the world's praise, were they to labor in civilized lands. Their sacrifices have therefore been all the greater. Like the accomplished Pharisee, Saul, who could have commanded any position in the religious administration of his people, they have counted all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus their Lord, and for the privilege of preaching the unsearchable riches of His grace to a perishing world.

Surely those who remain at home, amid the pleasant surroundings of a Christian civilization, owe a great debt to those who have volunteered to represent them in heathen lands. For let us never forget that the obligation to evangelize the world is one that rests upon the whole church of God. The fact that a heroic few have gone to sow and reap in the wide field of heathen humanity does not relieve the remainder of the church from its responsibility towards that portion of the work. They have undertaken their work and ours too. They are our representatives. While they have gone into the field, it is our duty to maintain a living fellowship with them. William Carey told the Christians of England that he would go down and explore the gold mine in the heathen world if they would hold the ropes. We ought all to be rope-holders to those who are mining the gold in the dark region of Pagan lands. They need our sympathy, our prayers, our money to sustain their spirits and support their bodies in their arduous work.

THE DESIRE OF OUR HEARTS.

The apostle Paul, in writing to the church at Rome, declared that his "heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel, is that they might be saved." And we learn that his whole life, after his conversion, was spent in proving that Jesus was the Christ the Son of God.

We know very little about his early history. We know not his parents; we only know that he was born in the city of Tarsus, and brought up under the guidance of Gamaliel, the renowned doctor and teacher of the law. He informs us that he was of the tribe of Benjamin—that he was a Pharisee—that his love for his brethren, according to the flesh, was very great, so much so that he could wish himself accused for their sakes. How grieved he must have felt at their rejection of the gospel. And when they turned him wounded and

bleeding out of their cities, the anguish of his heart must have been almost unbearable. And when he turned to fulfil his divine commission of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, it was with a certain amount of reluctance—not that he was unwilling for the salvation of the Gentiles, but because of the desire of his heart that Israel might be saved.

Every person has some desire in his (or her) heart that takes precedence of all other desires. Men of the world desire to gain wealth, some influential position in society, others the gratification of some appetite, and it is surprising to what extremity they will go to accomplish those desires. Men have been known to defraud their own parents in order to gain wealth. They have been known to slander and defame the character of their friends for the sake of position in society. Men having a strong desire for alcoholic drink have been known to sell their clothes to gratify their inordinate appetite. But we are thankful that a better and a holier desire can be created in the heart. Becoming a Christian changes the heart, but does not lessen the capability to desire. The heart still continues to be the seat of the affections, and if our affections are centered on Christ, the great desire of our heart will be the advancement of His kingdom—the prominent desire in the heart of every true Christian. This desire is manifested in many ways, but they can all be brought under two heads, viz.: Special desires and general desires. The special desire belongs to an individual Christian, who, while he may have the cause at large at heart, has some especial object in view, some especial desire for the accomplishment of which he is continually praying. For instance, a man is converted and his wife is not; he loves his wife, and it is natural that his heart's desire and prayer to God would be that his wife might be saved. He sits around the table of the Lord with those who love the Saviour, and his heart is saddened as he thinks of his companion in life refusing to sit there with him. When he thinks that ere he is permitted to meet around that table again, one or both may be called away to meet their God. Oh! what a solemn thought—united for a time, but to be parted for ever. Well might he make this matter his especial desire and prayer. There are wives who have unbelieving husbands, the same is true of them—they have a special desire—the conversion of their husbands. Then, there are Christian fathers and mothers who have children about whose salvation they are anxious. Their heart's desire and prayer to God is that their sons and daughters may be saved. How often they have earnestly petitioned the throne of Grace to this end! And is it not natural that they should do so? We all desire to meet and know in heaven those whom we loved on earth. When we think that some of us have brothers or sisters, perhaps both, fathers and mothers, wives or husbands, who have not yet accepted the gospel as "the power of God unto salvation," should we not ponder over the consequences? Time is flying fast, and we know not how soon the Lord will come to take His ransomed people home.

If this article should meet the eye of some brother or sister in Christ, desiring and praying for the salvation of some one who is dear to them, I would say, Do not despair. God has given you many promises in His word, and perhaps when you least expect it, you will have your desire granted.

Only be true to your trust. On the other hand should it happen that one having loved ones praying for them read this, let me say,—consider the importance of the matter. Why reject Christ? He is the Author of eternal salvation! Why cause those you love to inwardly grieve? Why run the risk of eternal separation!

Again, some Christians have a special desire to do works of charity, their desire and prayer to God is that they may have the means to relieve the

wants of the poor, to be able to minister to the sick and afflicted, and to be able financially to help along the work of the Master.

Another desires to preach the gospel, the noblest work on earth. How many earnest prayers have been offered to God by those who have desired to preach the gospel, that He would help them, if it was His will, to accomplish their desire. And I think I am safe in saying that there has never been a man who was qualified for that important work but what succeeded if the desire was from his heart. These are a few of the many special desires that Christians have.

The general desires of every Christian are, 1st, that he may make his own calling and election sure; 2nd, that he may do something that will help some one else to find a precious Saviour; 3rd, that he may meet with the glorified throng around the throne of God.

Much more might be said on this subject but space forbids. We see that all our desires, whether special or general, unite in one grand harmonious theme—salvation from sin, happiness forevermore. May the Lord help His followers to cultivate such desires that tend to our present good and our future happiness. Let the desire be from our heart and then we will be sure to seek its advancement. Do not begin with desire and stay there and talk about our desire, but remember that we must labor as well as pray.

WM. HARDING.

BE COURTEOUS.

"When each can feel his brother's sigh,
And with him bear a part;
When sorrow flows from eye to eye,
And joy from heart to heart."

These words of the poet Swain beautifully accord with the Apostle Peter in the eighth verse of the third chapter of his first epistle, viz.: "Finally, be ye of one mind, having compassion one of another; love us brethren; be pitiful; be courteous." Oh! what a beautiful lesson for each of us to study. 'Tis indeed one thing to make a profession and quite another to live up to our profession. Even aside from Christianity, the highest mark of a lady or a gentleman is to have respect for the feelings of another. Rules of etiquette change in different countries and in different ages of the world, but the foregoing rule never changes. Christ laid down this principle, and His whole life was a beautiful exemplification of the same. Example is a living lesson. Life is a grand reality. The life speaks. Every action has a tongue. Deeds are the *fac simile* of the soul; they proclaim what is within. How important, then, that our whole life should be in harmony with the principles of Christianity. We should all daily endeavor to cultivate Christian kindness, forbearance, and affectionate regard for each other's feelings, and dispense sunshine wherever we go.

How often we pray for each other, and then manifest very little regard for those we pray for. One sentence of prayer lived up to is worth more than a hundred without having any definite regard as to their import. If we pray for our enemies, if our prayers amount to anything, we will do everything we can to help them along. Moreover, we will have a tender regard for their feelings. We will not pray for them today, and tomorrow laugh and make fun of them going to destruction. Neither will we speak unkindly of them to others, neither will we of those in the church; but as Christians, as gentlemen, in the true sense of these terms, we will endeavor to attend strictly to the injunctions of the Apostle Paul in the twelfth chapter of his letter to the church at Rome, viz.: "Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another." He proceeds, and then exclaims, "Be of the same mind one towards