

Missionary.

A PLEA FOR MISSIONS.

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel."

There is no question as to whether or not missions are binding on Christians. Missionary effort is not a matter of choice but of obligation. Indeed, it is as much an obligation as Baptism or the Lord's Supper. Christ gave very few detailed instructions for the guidance of his Church. He left her policy to be shaped by the Holy Spirit. But one definite injunction He did give and that His last, as the risen Saviour: "Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." This is not merely a commission to baptize. It is the outline of a policy—the missionary policy of the Church. It presents to us a command, a duty, a statement of the principal object of the Church's existence, with the encouraging promise, in view of the immense obligation, of power commensurate with the task—"Lo, I am with you always." Missions are not optional. "Make disciples of all nations" is as binding as "This do in remembrance of me."

Unless you find in the Gospel that which makes it worthy of being preached to all men; you have not found in it that which makes it of any worth to you; you have missed its meaning; you do not know its power. The root of unbelief in Foreign Missions is want of faith in the Gospel.

If a Church can do nothing for the conquest of the world in Foreign Missions she will soon begin to die at home.

Duty is ours, results are God's. We are not responsible for conversion, but we are for contact. We are to go everywhere and preach the Gospel. All are to go, and to go to all.—Selected.

FREELY GIVE.

Some time ago a woman living in the country, in one of the German states, brought to her minister 30 marks (\$7.50) for the missions, saying, as she laid down her offering before him, "In former years I have been obliged to pay a doctor's bill of this amount. This year there has been no sickness in my family, which enables me to give so much to the Lord". At another time she brought a donation of 12 marks (3dol.), saying, "Many of the farmers have recently been visited by

a cyclone, but we have been spared. So I bring you this donation for missions as a thank-offering." Have we not each mercies vouchsafed to us for which it is our duty to thank God the Giver of all blessings.

GIVING IN SAMOA.

The Herald of Mission News says:—"The Samoan group of islands, have a Christian population of 30,000. In the largest of the islands, there are not fifty families that fail to observe family worship. Last year, besides supporting the Gospel at home, they sent a thank-offering, as their custom is, of £1,800 to the parent missionary society of London to help carry the good news further on. When a church member dies, they still keep his name on the books, and put a mark after it, denoting a word-picture which means: "We cannot think of him as dead either to us or to the work. We shall give a contribution in his name, that the cause may not suffer by his removal hence." We don't know if the like of devotion and liberality has reached as high a water-mark anywhere else the wide world over.

Work of the Bible Society.

Owing to the wet weather, doubtless many were prevented from attending the meetings of the Bible society; so for the benefit of such, we will briefly state a few facts, trusting that it will be of interest and that all will consider well their duty and privilege to help on as much as lies in their power, such a grand work for the cause of Christ.

The British and Foreign Bible society, of which the Upper Canada is an auxiliary, was organized in 1804. Since then it has issued 131,844,796 copies of God's word in whole or part, and is now spreading the scriptures over the world in more than 500 different languages.

The missionaries of all denominations, are largely dependent on the society for Bibles in the language of the people among whom they labor.

Although its issue of 13,000 copies daily, (according to the last report) seems very great, yet it is small in comparison with the great need. At the present date of issue, over ninety years would elapse before China alone would be supplied; then there is India, Africa, Japan and Egypt; with the island of the Pacific, as well as many papal lands. The society is depending upon the Christian world to sustain this good work. Although the contributions

of the past year amounted to about \$671,420, there was a deficiency of over \$115,000, and this to some extent has been going on for four years. Now our aid is asked, not only to maintain, but to extend the work; and it is for every Christian to answer the call, willingly and cheerfully and by so doing, help in spreading abroad the words of our Master. As we receive to our comfort the truths contained in the Book of Life, let us think of those who have not the same privilege; and when the collectors come to you, think for whom they are working, greet them with a Christian welcome and cheer them by a liberal contribution wherewith to feed the hungry with the precious Word of God.

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