

shirt, duck pants and a three-legged stool, gets on his new clothes and sits on his stool, he is a thousand miles above the pagans round about him. The story of Fiji reads like a fairy tale. Thirty years ago the hut of a chief was built over piles, round which stood a score of human beings buried alive, and his canoe was launched by being rolled to the sea over living human bodies. Now a thousand churches of Christ lift their spires there.

The American Board largely concentrates its forces upon Turkey, forming self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating churches, training a native ministry, and preparing what is now a mission field to become a feeder of missions and take its part with Christendom in all evangelizing work. Syria, with Christian colleges, churches, schools and presses, sends out converts in every direction to teach and preach, and scatters Arabic Bibles and testaments throughout the Mohammedan world. By a curious ordering of Providence the very restrictions of the Moslem Bible serve to give the Christian's Bible access to the followers of Mohammed. The Koran is in Arabic; it is unlawful to translate it, and yet every intelligent Moslem is enjoined to read it. Hence, whatever be his native tongue, the same Arabic version of the Bible finds in the Mohammedan a reader.

The crisis of missions is upon us, not only in the wide doors of opportunity, but in the awful *risk of failure*. A crisis will not brook delay. These openings demand

IMMEDIATE ENTRANCE AND OCCUPATION.

Delay is not only danger, but disaster. Japan's wonderful opening was as truly the Lord's doing and marvellous in our eyes, as when the iron gate opened of its own accord before Peter. But through those open gates push the hosts of infidelity while we parley and hesitate. Before Christian schools and colleges were established, an atheistic science was boldly taught in the imperial university; before a Christian press scattered its leaves, sceptical tracts and books flooded the land.

So in India, while we lingered at the threshold, Satan's agents spread the Age of Reason and the Philosophical Dictionary, and pasted up huge posters along the walls of Calcutta, emblazoned with extracts from the worst infidel books, to attract the eye of educated natives. In papal lands the people are in revolt against priestcraft.

There is an insurrection of human thought, a resurrection of human intelligence and conscience; but the reaction is towards atheism; bursting the bonds of superstition and spiritual thralldom the tendency is toward the license of free thinking. Prompt and vigorous prosecution of missions in papal lands would just now turn thousands and millions toward a pure gospel. But it is

NOW OR NEVER.

The crisis is thus upon us. What are we doing? Dr. Duff says, "playing at missions,"—yes, it is worse than playing; we fear that the Church of God is trifling with human souls and with Christian duty. There is not a Christian denomination or disciple that is not involved in this peril. At this most critical, pivotal hour of history and destiny, Protestant Christendom with a church membership estimated at from twenty-eight to thirty millions, is sending into this world-field only about five thousand missionaries, male and female i. e., Christendom gives

ONE OUT OF EVERY FIFTY-SIX HUNDRED

to carry the Gospel to the heathen, and of these nearly one-half are women. From nine to ten millions of dollars a year are given to prosecute this work, that is one-third of a dollar as an average per member, less than one-third of a cent a day, for the evangelization of a thousand millions of our race. And even this we raise only irregularly and spasmodically. The annual assemblies and convocations frequently report alarming debts, and at a time when God's imperial clarion sounds the signal for advance all along the lines, the cry goes forth, "*retrench!*" when even to stand still is to go back.

We do not exaggerate when we say that in the matter of missions no small part of the church is cursed with an apathy and lethargy that are criminal. Estimating Protestant church members at 28,000,000, should one out of every five hundred go abroad to teach or preach, we should have

SOME FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND,

instead of five thousand, representatives in the field; and were the whole Protestant Church represented by one per cent. of average income, instead of ten million dollars a year we should have at least one hundred millions for the work of missions. As to money, we ought to bow our heads in shame that hundreds of dollars should