

The Mission Crisis.

CHRISTIAN GIVING ACCORDING TO OUR NINETEENTH CENTURY PRIVILEGES.*

IT may seem superfluous, or at least ill-timed, to offer the thoughts expressed in this paper to a society whose members already profess to estimate aright the importance of Mission Work, and to recognize their individual responsibility in regard to it. And yet, as perhaps few of us are denying ourselves to any very appreciable extent, a fresh consideration of this essential question may lead us to feel dissatisfied with our present degree of progress, and seeing our coldness and indifference, we may be brought to question our hearts more testingly than ever before; and may we bring our selfish hearts back to Him who still says, "Come unto Me"—"Come for warmth and the love for your fellow-men, as you first came for pardon and light for yourselves," and coming thus, may we be thrilled and inspired, till our lives may attest in every expenditure that we are living not to ourselves but to "Him whose we are," "Who loved us and gave Himself for us." "In the whole compass of human benevolence there is nothing so grand, so noble, so Christian, so truly God-like as the work of evangelizing the heathen." "A strong statement" says one, yes, but examine it closely before you pronounce it too strong, for the author was one who measured things by no earthly criterion, and to fortify the statement, we will borrow another. "The missionary appears to me the highest type of human excellence in our nineteenth century, and his profession the noblest. He has the enterprise of the merchant without the narrow desire of gain, the dauntlessness of the soldier without the necessity of shedding blood, the zeal of the geographical explorer but for far higher motives than science."

Probably there are few who will not now assent to every word. But let us draw closer and ask ourselves upon whom does the duty of evangelizing the heathen devolve? *Duty*, we repeat, for is not the charge of our ascending Lord imperative, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel." Certainly we cannot all go *in person*, and if we could, we are not all qualified, but equally certain it is, that to

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