

"Oh no!" they said; "it is not too much. We can live on rats, but those other people must have the gospel."

Just think of it! Willing to live on rats if they might send God's word to other poor ignorant sinners! Did not those Christians very much want to hasten the kingdom of Christ?

Perhaps you think this work of advancing the kingdom of grace is a work for *grown-up* people to undertake. When you pray, "Thy kingdom come," you think, "Yes, I want to be in Christ's kingdom; I want to be a follower of such a glorious King; but such a child as I am can do very little toward helping his kingdom to come. I can only earn a few pennies now and then to put in the missionary-box."

Children very often feel that way, but they forget what a large place the Lord Jesus gives children in his kingdom—how, when he was on earth, he took children in his arms and blessed them and said, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven;" how he was pleased with the children's worship of him in the temple. And when his disciples asked him who was greatest in the kingdom of heaven, he took a little child and said, "Except ye become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." All through the Bible we find that God has a place for children in his kingdom.

Then surely he has some work for his little subjects to do, and will not reject their smallest services. He did not silence the children who cried "Hosanna!" before him when he rode into Jerusalem, so we know that the service and the praise of children are sweet to him.

I heard a lady who had long been a missionary in Africa say that one day she was about setting off on a wearisome mission-journey. Just as she was stepping into the boat and thinking what a long, tiresome way lay before her, she heard the African girls who were gathering in the mission-school house singing,

"Jesus loves me: this I know,
For the Bible tells me so."

Her heart grew lighter, and she took her

seat in the boat and glided away from the village, still hearing the young voices singing that dear old Sunday-school hymn which you all know so well, and which missionaries everywhere say is a great favorite with the heathen children too as soon as they learn it.

That missionary-lady felt that Christ's kingdom was coming in that dark land, when the children learned and loved to sing "Jesus loves me."

And when you are trying even in little ways to help in the work of sending teachers to heathen lands, so that the children there may learn of the Saviour who loved and blessed children when he was on earth, and loves and blesses them still from heaven, you are helping to make Christ's kingdom come on earth and showing that you wish yourself and others brought into it.

All our services are very small and very imperfect, but God is pleased to make use of us; and he loves the least work for his kingdom if it is honest, loving work, and he will bless it.

There is not a pair of hands too small to help on this work; there is not a heart too young to give itself first to the Lord Jesus and then try to bring others into his kingdom.

"Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journey run—
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moon shall wax and wane no more.

"People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name."

A CHILD'S EVENING PRAYER.

Father, I thank Thee for this day;
For health and friends and food;
O, wash my many sins away
In Jesus' precious blood.

Lord, through the silence of the night
Be to my pillow near;
And with returning life and light,
Still make a child Thy care.