

*ONLY A MISSIONARY.*

"I say, John, who is that man going down the street?"

"Do you mean that fellow with a seedy-looking coat, a satchel in his hand and a book under his arm? I supposed from his appearance, that he was one of your missionaries, and no doubt he is here for the purpose of annoying decent people. He will tell a doleful story about the suffering poor, spiritual destitution, and the urgent demands for help. He wants to build a church, school house, hospital, and send money to the heathen in the foreign lands. In my opinion, such men would be much more useful if they would engage in honest work."

"But, John it seems to me that you are very unkind in what you say of these men; and this arises no doubt from the fact that you do not know much about them, or the character of the work in which they are engaged. It is certainly true that missionaries have done much good in the world. They are self-denying, earnest, faithful, their mission is one of peace and good-will to men, and they do all in their power to advance the kingdom and glory of God. They deserve the sympathy and help of all good people."

"I perceive it will do no good to discuss the question with you, but permit me, my dear Dorcas, to say plainly, that the world is full of religious nonsense, and these men, whom you are disposed to defend, take up a single idea and follow it until they become cranks and nuisances. It is altogether proper that we should have our nice church, and excellent music, and be served by our gifted young rector—these

things are necessary for our respectability and standing in society. But I am heartily sick of this sentimentalism about missionaries and their work at home and abroad. Think of the money expended, and what good does it do?"

"I am greatly surprised at what you say. Is it nonsense to preach the glad tidings of peace and life to those who are exposed to the dangers of this wicked world? I am sure you cannot think so. You admit it is proper for us to have a church, but you must remember that we could not have had this blessing if others had not come as missionaries and prepared the way for us. The idea which you express, that a nice church, good music, and a gifted rector, are necessary for our respectability and standing in society is quite common, but is none the less erroneous. The purpose for which the Church was established carries with it a far deeper meaning. She imparts to the truly penitent, the weary and heavily laden, immortality and eternal glory. The time and money expended could not be used in a better way, and the good accomplished is infinite."

"Evidently your mind is made up on this question, and not likely to be changed, and yet I would call your attention to certain facts. The men who go out as missionaries are an inferior class—they would be failures in any branch of business, our city rectors and others occupying respectable positions regard them as 'hewers of wood and drawers of water,' and even the bishops speak disparagingly of them, and occasionally throw a few crumbs to get rid of them. Is it likely that they would occupy such hard fields of labor if