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I.—LITERATURE OF MISSIONS.
SERVING OUR OWN GENERATION.

[EDITORIAL.—A. T. P.]

PAUL, in the Antiochian Synagogue, significantly said of David, "He served his own generation by the will of God."*

If anything especially distinguishes those foremost missionary disciples of our day—the Moravians—it is the sublime purpose to reach their own generation with the gospel. Count Zinzendorf led in this unique consecration to *present* service, when he chose as his motto, "That land is henceforth my country, which most needs the gospel."

To this thought we would now give emphasis: the lifetime of our generation bounds at once our work and our opportunity. What we are to give we must impart while we are living; what they are to receive from us they must get while they are yet living. We owe to our Lord an infinite debt; we can never pay it; all we can do is to acknowledge it by service to our generation according to His will and in His name. Obviously so far as that debt can be paid, it can be paid only during the period which limits the generation of which we form a part. This proposition seems so simple and obvious as to need no argument. Yet, practically, it has never been accepted and acted on by the church in modern times, nor at any time since the apostolic age.

There are two sorts of service we may render to humanity: one is immediate and transient, the other is remote and permanent.

For example: a conflagration sweeps over some great metropolis, consuming every combustible dwelling and leaving thousands of families without clothing, food or shelter. Manifestly, every true fellow-citizen owes to the naked, starving, homeless, an *immediate* and imperative duty which can be done only now. The first necessity is to rally universally to put out the fire, save those now imperilled and perishing, and feed, clothe and house the destitute. After these present and pressing needs are met, it behooves us to make permanent provision against like calamities hereafter, preventing such catastrophies by securing a more adequate water supply, a better equipped fire department, and a fire-proof class of buildings. But only fools or monsters

* Acts xiii : 36.