

GROWING INTEREST IN FOREIGN MISSIONS.

There is a strong impression that the tide of missionary interest and effort, which has been rising continuously since the beginning of this century, is destined to reach a much higher level; and that great blessings for the world are in store in the immediate future if the Church is aroused to consecrate herself for the work. Even now there are great openings abroad, and great searchings of heart at home.

It is most important that the bulk of our people should be trained out of the idea, that missions to the heathen are only an ornamental addition to the Church, instead of being an integral part of its work, an essential to its vitality. We are on the wrong line, when we provide bountifully and even luxuriously for ourselves, and then give of our leavings for Foreign Mission work. The Scripture view is to give of our first fruits for the Lord's service, putting the claims of Christ before everything else. *The Church is destroyed by selfishness.*

The minister of the congregation is in a position of immense influence for developing this missionary spirit. Not in having to raise money—this he should be spared—but in having his own soul inflamed with love to the Master, and with a yearning desire to do his will in this matter. By acquiring familiarity with missionary intelligence, *not confining his knowledge to that of his own denomination*, and then endeavoring by every means in his power to imbue his people and their children with the missionary spirit, as being absolutely essential to the vigorous life of his congregation, he will find a rich blessing to his own soul in the efforts thus put forth. *Facts are the fuel to feed missionary zeal.* Periodical information imparted in an interesting way; earnest, pointed prayer, instead of the routine sentence or two in the weekly intercessory prayer, with the one aim to obey Christ's command, and to be in sympathy with Him in compassion for the multitudes, these cannot fail to tell on the people. Hearts will thus be made to glow, prayer to ascend, free-will offerings to be made, and systematic giving to be practised as a spiritual privilege, while every other relative duty at home will be the more thoroughly done.

It is sometimes said that missionary

meetings are not so popular as they used to be. This, however, is not due to declining interest, but to the diffusion of information from many smaller centres instead of, as formerly, from a few important centres. They have been tried in church on Sunday evenings with marked success. The plan of simultaneous meetings throughout the Church, as initiated with success by the Church Missionary Society, is worthy of adoption.

It is thought by some that we frighten our people with the idea that while they are doing their best, they are yet required to look forward to indefinite extension in foreign lands. But if we consider that it is the Lord's work, and He has the ways and means in his own hands, such fears are at once dissipated. For instance, extension by native agency is yet only in its infancy.

Let us believe in the Holy Ghost, and in a present Saviour, who has said, "Lo, I am with you always;" and then let us act upon his word, "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jer. xxxiii, 3.)—*Missionary Review.*

Never hurt any one's self-respect. Never trample on any soul though it may be lying in the veriest mire; for that last spark of self-respect is its only hope, its only chance; the last seed of a new and better life; the voice of God which still whispers to it "You are not what you ought to be, and you are not what you can be; you are still God's child, still an immortal soul. You may rise yet, and conquer yet, and be a man yet, after the likeness of God who made you, and Christ who died for you." O why crush that voice in any heart? If you do, the poor creature is lost, and lies where he or she falls, and never tries to rise again—Chas. Kingsley.

An old-fashioned recipe for a little home comfort:—Take of thought for self one part, two parts of thought for family; equal parts of common sense and broad intelligence, a large modicum of the sense of fitness of things, a heaping measure of living above what your neighbors think of you, twice the quantity of keeping within your income, a sprinkling of what tends to refinement and æsthetic beauty, stirred thick with Christian principle of the true brand, and set it to rise.