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The Monthly Missionary Meeting.

TO maintain and promote the missionary spirit in a congregation, it will be necessary to adopt special means of some kind or other. It may be taken for granted that every minister, with greater or less frequency, brings the missionary aspect of Christianity under the notice of his people from the pulpit. But this is not enough. The subject should be discussed and illustrated from the platform as well, when the members of the congregation would have an opportunity of taking part in the proceedings, by contributing information, reading papers, or asking questions about missionary work. It is customary with some congregations to devote the first Wednesday evening of each month to missionary intelligence. It would be well if all congregations did this. But, strange to say, it has been found difficult to sustain the interest in such meetings. We can only account for this by supposing that sufficient care has not been taken to make suitable preparations for successful meetings. Nothing should be left undone to make the meetings attractive. People expect to get information on these occasions, and it ought to be fresh, authentic, and to the point. To this end a programme extending over say at least six or eight meetings should be carefully prepared beforehand, printed and circulated among the members. A distinct subject should be appointed for each meeting, let it be India, or Africa, or China, or the West Indies, or the South Seas, or Turkey, Protestant missions in Roman Catholic countries, or Home Missions. In each case a member of the congregation should be named to introduce the subject. For this he should make special preparation and be able to give a brief outline of the

history and progress of the particular mission under consideration, its peculiar difficulties, and its results. One or two others might be named to hold themselves in readiness to speak for five minutes each on the same subject, after which the meeting might take the form of a conference, when questions might be asked and answered. The less *reading* of extracts from papers or manuscript the better. A map of the country under discussion is an essential requisite. It does not need to be an expensive or elaborate one. It may be a mere outline, extemporized for the occasion, or it may be roughly sketched on the blackboard, or it may be one of Colter's missionary maps, which would answer for the whole course of meetings, and which may be obtained through any bookseller for \$12. Special works of reference for the several fields are easily obtained, and these when they have served their purpose might go to form the nucleus of a congregational missionary library to which all might have free access. At intervals the stereopticon and photography might be brought into requisition and an entertainment provided that would invest the subject with interest even to the youngest members of the congregation. The best catalogue of books treating on missionary subjects that we have seen is in "The Gospel in All Lands' Missionary Almanac," published by Eugene R. Smith, New York, price 25 cents. The two most valuable contributions to missionary literature of a general kind are Dr. Christlieb's "Survey of Protestant Missions," price 75 cents, and Dr. Bainbridge's "Around the World Tour of Christian Missions," \$2. Dr. Patterson's "Missionary life among the Cannibals," being the life of Dr. Geddie, first missionary to the New Hebrides, is full of interesting information in regard to our Church's work in the South Seas.