

and of "the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints."

What a blessing it would be to the Church and the world! Then would Zion arise, shake herself from the dust and put on her beautiful garments. She would be glorious and attractive to the world, and men, who are now amazed and rendered sceptical by the want of manifest Christian consecration and who are repelled by the coldness and selfishness of the professed friends of Jesus, would then be convinced of the divinity of the religion of the Bible, be brought to the Saviour and enlisted as the loyal soldiers of the Lord. Souls would be saved, the world evangelized and God's name glorified.

A. F. THOMSON.

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THE TRUE BASIS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

For upwards of thirty years the Presbyterian Church in the Lower Provinces has been engaged in Foreign Mission work, yet how many do not fully realize the true basis on which this great enterprise rests. When we read the interesting letters of our missionaries from their respective fields of labor we notice that a great work is being done and wondrous changes effected. The Gospel when introduced among the degraded inhabitants of earth and applied to their hearts and consciences both reforms and civilizes. Customs and habits change, arts and sciences are introduced, vice and immorality decrease, men and women become better citizens and new motives and desires are originated. Such are some of the fruits and evidences that follow the labors of godly men in heathen lands.

But when we consider the great work in which missionaries are engaged are they not doing something nobler and grander than reforming and civilizing. Their great commission is, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

In many respects this command of Christ's should be sufficient to establish the claim of missions. But when we look still deeper do we not find that the very pith of the Gospel is to save the lost, and was it not our Saviour's mission to seek

and save such. All mankind have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and when the message of salvation is published to the perishing it is that they may be raised out of their lost condition. Is not this the true basis on which the Foreign Mission enterprise rests, the lost state of the heathen? Only through the name of Jesus can any be saved and in order to salvation we must know that name.

When we reflect upon the lost state of the heathen it seems a hard truth to believe. The thought that so many thousands have perished and are perishing is truly overwhelming. Many cannot entertain it and speculate about God's saving them in some other way than through faith in Christ. Yet we are commanded to send them the Gospel because they are lost. Must we be charged with cruel and hard hearts to base missions to the heathen on such a fact. Were the Apostles who labored so earnestly and endured untold sufferings for the sake of their fellow men cruel and hard hearted? Was Wm. C. Burns who labored so devotedly among the Chinese enduring toil in the Master's service cruel and hard hearted? Was our pioneer missionary, Geddie, who left the endearments of home and cast in his lot with fierce cannibals cruel and hard hearted? No, they saw a lost world and longed to tell the heathen the story of the cross. Is not this the true basis on which our work in Formosa, India, Trinidad and the New Hebrides rests.

As a christian church have we fully realized and grasped the idea of the magnitude of the work. If so then we will help to hasten the realization of the grand proposal of Dr. Pierson, of Detroit, the sending of the Gospel to the whole heathen world within the space of 20 years. Is it too vast an undertaking? Not if we are filled with the spirit of the Master. Should it not fire our zeal when we reflect upon the fact that hell is receiving many fresh recruits from the ranks of heathendom every day.

May the Lord arouse the great branch of the Presbyterian family to which we belong to see and fully understand the true basis on which Foreign Missions rest. The heathen are lost. Do we feel it?

A. B. DICKIE.

It is a shameful fact that since Bosnia was annexed to Austria it has had far less religious liberty than it had under Mohammedan rule.