

est privations and hardships, if thereby only souls can be won to Christ and his kingdom advanced. If this baptism be upon us we shall look upon the things of others as well as our own. We shall feel like the woman who saw a horse running away with a child, and she ran crying, "stop that horse! stop that horse!" "Why?" asked somebody, "is that your child?" "No," said she, "but it is somebody's child."

In the first chapter of the Acts it is written, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses of me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." "The uttermost parts of the earth" was the last expression which fell from the Saviour's lips, the last thought which came into his heart, as he ascended to heaven. And this thought was the heart still. (c) By informing himself concerning missions. This will necessitate certain lines of reading. He should first of all read the history of missions in connection with his own denomination. He should then pass to the history of missions in connection with other denominations. He should study the missions of different countries, as Persia, India, Madagascar and the Sandwich Islands, and thus gain a kind of general survey of missions. He would find it helpful to read with a map before him, for history and geography are mutually supplementary, and more easily mastered when taken together. Reliable missionary maps should adorn the walls of the pastor's study, and which, so far at least as his own denomination is concerned, he should be able to locate the different missionary stations, and call up the names of the different missionaries upon them. He should also familiarize himself with missionary biography, and he should so systematize his missionary information, from whatever source gained, as to be able readily to draw from it for illustration in his sermons, and for instruction and inspiration to his hearers. (d) By reflecting upon the prophecies and promises which point to the evangelization of the nations, and by seeking to come into line and sympathy with God's great and glorious purpose as expressed therein. These prophecies and promises readily occur to our minds. I refer to only three of them, and with-out expanding the thoughts they express. The first is that of Daniel: "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, there came with the clouds of heaven one like unto a son of man, and there was given unto him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." The second is that of Micah: "In the latter days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow unto it." The third is that of Hosea: "Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass that, in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God. And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint themselves one head, and shall go up from the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel." This last passage Paul interprets, not of the literal Judah and Israel, not of the Jews as such, but of the Gentiles, the spiritual Judah and Israel who should embrace Christianity in the last days. How grand and inspiring to see the divine purpose unfolding through the ages and reaching its fulfillment "in the dispensation of the fullness of time." It may be doubted if the most regal imagination has yet pictured a glory so fair as that which shall result from the triumphs of the gospel in the last days. (e) By reviewing the history of missions during the last fifty years. In the light of this survey we have reason to believe that in another hundred years, or about the year 2000, the whole world will be thoroughly evangelized. Then the gigantic idolatries of the world will have been overthrown. Then the conflict between labor and capital will have been adjusted. Then whiskey

rings and the abominations of intemperance will be a thing of the past. Then the benign and blessed influence of the religion of Jesus Christ will be everywhere dominant, and they shall not hurt nor destroy in all God's holy mountain.

Having thus become interested in missions, the pastor will be prepared to interest the Church to whom he ministers, and the way has already been hinted at. (a) If his interest has been deepened in missions and missionary work, so will that of the Church in the same way. The pastor will therefore see to it that his people are put in possession of this information. He will give them the privilege of informing themselves, utilizing, for example, the missionary concert for this purpose. Dr. Edward Judson has suggested an excellent plan for this. He says: "I divide the whole world into three divisions, which we successively consider. At one of our missionary concerts we take Asia and Africa, at another Europe, at another America. Now, I have divided up Asia and Africa into ten or twelve different mission fields, and I have assigned one field to each of a number of different persons, and I hold them responsible every month for the tidings from their respective fields. I do the same with Europe and America, and then we have one man whose business it is to be a sort of lookout and give us the missionary intelligence from other denominations. Now, when we get together, the meeting is opened with singing and prayer, and then pointing up to the map, I say, for instance, here is the great country of Japan: is there any intelligence from Japan? And my man will get up and give us what information he has on Japan. Then we take up another country—China, and my man gets up and says something about China. Then we have prayer and sing a rousing hymn, and so we go on from one country to another. In this way we get more material than we want for any one meeting. It enables my people to inform themselves. I can hardly get a word in edgewise." It would be strange indeed if a Church thus trained should not become deeply interested in missions. (b) The pastor will interest his people in missions by inducing them to give. This will be found very effectual. Our hearts naturally go out towards the object to which our money is given. This whole question of giving on the part of churches deserves a thorough going into. Great importance attaches to it. Every pastor, if he is wise, will give it the attention it merits, and he will not fail, in order to the best results, himself to set an example of giving.

Yet other means will occur to the thoughtful pastor of interesting his people in missionary work. For example, he will not fail to give due prominence to the subject of missions in his preaching: he will remember it in his public prayers; and he will see to it that it is not overlooked in the Sunday School. And, lastly, he will be sure to enlist the gentle but mighty agency of the sisters in this behalf. How strange that Christian women should not be asked to share in a work which, both by nature and grace, they are so eminently adapted to! What an absurd and wicked interpretation of the divine word and purpose is that which excludes them from this blessed work! A true rendering of the 11th verse of the 68 Psalm, puts the matter in its true light: "The Lord giveth the word: the women that publish the tidings are a great host."

### Christ, the First Missionary.\*

Hundreds of years before the advent of Christ, the prophet writing of Him said, "He hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." And during His earthly life, He Himself speaks once again of the Father having "sent Him into the world,"—so that if the true meaning of the word missionary be, one who is sent, then was Christ our Lord in very truth the first missionary.

\*Paper read before the Quarterly Meeting of the Women's Aid Societies of Halifax and Dartmouth.