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## The Reason Why.

**Even** a little booklet of this birch-bark order must justify its advent into the world at any time, either on the ground of artistic conception, and literary value, or because of the importance of its message to the sons of men, if it convey one. But the present day is not "any time," it is a time of red, blazing war, of hell-fire intensity; there is no leisure to-day for dilettantism; either in art or letters, however pleasurable the pursuit of these may be, unless one may thereby help to win the war.

And yet, it is even in a day like this that—without any pretensions to literary merit, artistic value or inspiring message to the warring sons of men—"IGNIS" comes meandering through the papyrus into Metaphor, just as if the world were at ease. And why? Well, one might say, Because he is—"Fatuus!" But, preferring the serious mood, I say, Because necessity urges; and "necessity knows no . . . ."—ah! non piu mai! In other words, without using that discredited maxim, our Aiyansh mission, having been washed out by a great flood we are compelled to move the village to another place; where the church and rectory must be re-estimated, and the mission put upon a new basis.

This means that the missionary is up against an expenditure for which no provision has been made by Church or State. To meet this need, which will extend over a period of two years, he feels compelled to help in the pursuit of the nimble dime,—hence the fatuity of "IGNIS" and his fellows to follow. For, having in his portfolio several little sketches of local subjects, in prose and verse, the missionary has arranged them into a series of pictured booklets, which he hopes to print and send out on a prospecting trip of their own. "Ignis" is asked to bring in 4 patent Fire Extinguishers. Oh, nemesis—the irony of Fate!

Aiyansh, B.C., 30 June, 1918.

*James Blaine Cullagh*

