

the faithful missionaries of the cross, labour on for the good of mankind, in the hope of better times. The day is near in which your work will be its own witness, and will assert its own claims. Go on to awaken, enlighten, and elevate the spirit of man; and impart benefits which gold cannot compensate! Your work, happily, carries with it its own reward. How vast and abiding the satisfaction which results from calling forth the intellectual and moral resources of your specks; from giving the immortal mind of man a new consciousness of its powers and faculties; incorporating the judgment, regulating the will, and purifying the heart! Your vocation invests you with a power, which, wisely wielded, will shake and subvert all the despotic thrones and dominions of our world. Your position commands for you an awful and augmenting ascendancy in the sphere of human agency. You put forth your strength upon a nation's mind in the morning of its life, when all is young, and fresh, and tender. The lessons you teach, become part of the very instincts of opening life. The principles you implant, are permanently incorporated with the elements of thought and being. It is not for nothing that you are objects of hatred to the foes of freedom and of human advancement.

In proportion to the greatness of a power, are the necessity and importance of its right direction. The work of teaching well deserves the best talents; but moral consideration, are paramount to intellectual: for it is your high province to produce, not simply intellectual, but moral results; and the latter are incomparably more important. Hence, no degree of mental progress can compensate for deficiency in moral culture; and the utmost measures of both are essential to complete success in the exercise of your functions. The scale of your competency is one of many gradations; and he who approaches the highest point, is entitled to rank with the most distinguished of his race.

The plain and simple apparatus of your rooms is but the index to your powers. There is no limit to the richness and variety of your communications, but that which is set by your own capabilities; and there is scarcely any kind or degree of information which may not be brought to bear upon the interests of education. You may perform miracles in tuition, without book. Thus it was that Socrates and Plato taught the youth of Greece; but you may infinitely excel both Socrates and Plato, not only in the matter, but also in the manner, of your communication. Amidst the multitude of subjects which lie before you, especial attention is due to those which are discussed in this volume, War and Missions. What may you not do towards teaching mankind to think aright in these mighty themes! They come legitimately before you in two chief departments of History and Geography; and, in able hands, they will never fail to contribute a freshness and an interest to the business of instruction, which nothing else can impart. But, that you may teach, it is necessary that you should learn. Let your own minds, therefore, be thoroughly familiarized with these great subjects. Make an intense and patient study of them, till you have mastered them in all their principles and in all their details. What materials for moral instruction and pathetic exhortation! On these weighty topics, how much you may accomplish towards the reformation of the public taste and the creation of a public conscience! You may ultimately implant in the nation's heart an abhorrence of war which nothing can mitigate, and a zeal for missions which nothing can quench! Thus may you earn the gratitude of earth and the benediction of Heaven! In the furtherance of this grand object of Christian philanthropy, let me introduce to your attention the *Martyr of Erumanga*, whose glorious career and cruel end will supply abundance of striking illustration.

Early in the year 1814, John Williams was aroused by the Rev. Timothy East, of Birmingham, from spiritual slumber, in the Tabernacle, Moorfields, London. From that memorable night, he was deeply convinced of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He saw that he had incurred the penalty of death; and he was filled with a trembling anxiety to escape the wrath to come. He was soon enabled to understand, and led to believe and obey, the gospel of Christ; and became a member of the church assembling in the Tabernacle, under the care of the late Rev. Matthew Wilkes, the future Missionary, thus blessed with the hope of salvation, and filled with compassion for the souls of men still walking in the paths of perdition, offered himself as a teacher in the Sabbath

schools and was accepted. As he sat, amid his youthful class, on the free benches of the Tabernacle, initiating them in the elements of saving knowledge, his fellow-labourers little imagined how great a man he was one day to become, and how much he was destined to effect in diffusing the word of God among the heathen. The ways of the Lord are a great deep: he has work, high and glorious, marked out for many of you likewise, who are, at present, holy and zealous, though humble and obscure, teachers of British and other schools.

Young Williams, delighting much in the business of a teacher, was industrious and exemplary in the discharge of his duties. As he advanced in the knowledge and love of Christ, his compassion deepened for the souls of men; and he strongly desired to be entirely devoted to their instruction. He saw multitudes in England pressing on in the broad way that leads to destruction, and his heart bled at the sight; but, on reflection, he thought the state of the heathen still more lamentable, and such as more loudly called for commiseration. On this ground, therefore, after much prayer to God for direction, and asking counsel of wise men, he offered himself to the London Missionary Society, by whose Directors he was accepted, and sent to the South Seas. Such was the deliberate choice of Mr. Williams; and, although, alas! it issued in a violent death, it was a wise choice. His dreadful end was an event of predestined honour, not of casual misfortune. Paul, the father of Gentile Missions, spent the wicle of his laborious life in the spirit, if not even in the anticipation, of martyrdom. He was always "ready to die for the Lord Jesus." He cherished the most exalted conception of the apostolic office. He will knew that it was appointed inconceivably to enrich and bless the world. His estimate of its unparalleled importance was formed on this knowledge; and hence his noble-minded exclamation, "I magnify mine office!" He was at all times the subject of a deep, joyous, and exulting conviction, that his was incomparably the highest, the most beneficent, and the most honourable employment in the universe. That consideration formed a chief part of the moral means by which he was upheld under the pressure of overwhelming burdens, and emboldened to proceed amid appalling difficulties and impending dangers.

The question of missions, the question of the world's salvation, will be mainly discussed and carried at the Christian fireside, and in the bosom of religious circles. When the current of enlightened missionary feeling shall have set strongly in to churches, it will, at the same time, penetrate households. Godly parents will then come to consider it the choicest of all felicities, the loftiest of all distinctions, to have sons and daughters enrolled among the ranks of the servants of the Most High God, showing to men of foreign climes the way of salvation. The spirit of missions is simply the spirit of true piety existing in full power. With the spread of this piety, those views will increase and multiply; and, when this piety shall have attained a healthful maturity and a general prevalence, those views will impart a new aspect to the business of pecuniary contribution. The celestial fire of the spirit of missions will straightway subdue and melt the hearts of our monied men, and "loose the loins" of our merchant princes, to open before the world's Messiah "the two-leaved gates" of their golden stores; "and the gates will not be shut." The power of that fire will every where go before him, and make the "crooked places straight," and "break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron;" it will sweetly constrain converted men to "give him the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places." The dissolving power of that celestial fire will at length release the hoarded millions of Christendom, and render them available to the cause of Christ. Men and money, missionaries and their support, like substance and shadow, will walk in company. Personal and relative fortunes will flow outwards, in torrents, for the sustenance of the armies of the cross, while the still-augmenting mites of the accumulating myriads of the industrious classes will go on to swell the tide of their grateful munificence.

Teachers of the Christian youth of England; in connexion with this glorious anticipation, we look most wistfully to you. Your charge is the hope of the church and of the world. Heaven bless their blooming hosts, guide their hearts into the love of Christ, and fill their generous bosoms with the pure and lofty spirit of peace, and of missions to the Gentiles! It is of the utmost moment that their minds should be early directed to that work, that