

THE MISSIONARY WORK OF THE LORD JESUS.*

A PLEA FOR MEDICAL MISSIONS.

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As in spiritual, moral, and social life, so also in mission work the Lord Jesus Christ is set forth in Holy Scripture as the Great Example to be followed.

Thus in regard to *mission work* He says: "As My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you." "As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I sent them into the world" (John 20 : 21 ; 17 : 18).

In undertaking mission work, therefore, especially to the heathen, it is of first importance to inquire in what way the Lord Jesus carried out the mission on which He was sent, so far as concerned His work as a *Man among men*.

Limiting the inquiry to the Gospel of St. Matthew, the description of the first missionary journey (Matt. 4) is utilized for the illustration, by various typical examples, of the method Jesus employed in carrying on His mission work, just as the journey itself was used for the preliminary instruction of His disciples.

The *Method of Work* is set out first in summary. "Jesus went about all Galilee (a) TEACHING in their synagogues, and (b) PREACHING the Gospel of the kingdom, and (c) HEALING all manner of sickness and all manner of disease, . . . and they brought unto Him all sick people, that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and (α) those which were possessed with devils, and (β) those which were lunatic, and (γ) those that had the palsy : and He healed them." Not only are three modes of work mentioned—viz., preaching, teaching, and healing—but also three distinct varieties of healing ; for of the "divers diseases and torments" there were three groups—viz. (α) that consisting in the possession by the devil of the *soul* as well as of the physical organism ; (β) that comprising disorders of the *mind* ; and (γ) that constituted by diseases of the *body*.

The method of work is then described in detail :

(a) As to *Teaching*.—He taught His disciples, in chapter 5, *first*, what manner of spirit they must have, since "theirs is the kingdom of heaven ;" *secondly*, what kind of work they must do that others might see their "good works," and glorify their Father in heaven ; and that they themselves, as children of Him who does good to all alike, might be perfect even as He is perfect. *Thirdly*, in chapter 6 He taught them the—whether for spirit or for body, for life toward God or life toward man—

* This paper is but extended extracts from what is perhaps the most superb appeal for medical missions to be found in the literature of the subject, and which originally appeared in the *Church Missionary Intelligencer*, September and December, 1891. With great reluctance we have been compelled to abridge it, feeling that abridgment approaches mutilation. But we hope readers may be led to send to Salisbury Square for a copy of the entire address.—A. T. P.