

come missionaries in various ways—for instance, by appealing too strongly and too exclusively to their sympathies and imaginations. Some years since one of our prominent and honored missionaries, who had to a large extent the gift of enthusiasm and personal magnetism, succeeded in obtaining an unusually large number of recruits to go back with him to China. Only two or three remained to work. The others discovered before they had reached the end of their voyage that they had made a mistake. They went out under the influence of a temporary enthusiasm; they had not looked at the matter in all of its bearings; they did not know themselves or to what they were going; they had not counted the cost. It is well on every account that many volunteers have relinquished their pledge before going to the field; it would have been better not to sign it at all. I have conversed with some of these men and tried, at the request of others (perhaps I should not have done so), to strengthen their wavering purpose. Perplexed and annoyed, they sought to find reasons satisfactory to themselves and others for regarding themselves as providentially hindered. I could not help feeling sorry for them. It is a serious question with regard to many who are marked “hindered,” whether they should not rather be classed with the “renounced.”

Young men may be unduly influenced by falsely applied logic. A person may be addressed thus: “Have you not devoted yourself unconditionally to the service of Christ? Is it not evident beyond question that the Church is not doing what she ought for the cause of foreign missions? Should you, then, not go? What reason have you for not going? How can you conscientiously refuse *now* to give yourself to the work of foreign missions?” A person without deep convictions or a settled purpose, who is induced to go abroad in some such way as this, soon finds himself in a very awkward position. Arrived on the field, he discovers that his heart is not in the work, and that he is not fitted for it. Consistency, self-respect, and duty urge him forward in the task he has undertaken; but he finds himself with regret and mortification thinking of plans to get home, or grieving over the useless expense incurred in sending him out. Such cases, which are not imaginary, may well lead us to hesitate before we assume the responsibility of urging any one to devote his life to missionary service.

In order to secure larger numbers for the field, we may be tempted to influence men unduly by presenting the missionary work in a way that is partial and misleading, giving only the bright side of it. Our Saviour has given us an example to guide us in this matter which should not be disregarded. When individuals and multitudes followed Him to be His disciples, in His desire that they should not be deceived or disappointed, He told them plainly all and the worst that they had to expect. He said: “Yea, the time cometh that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service,” adding, “but these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them.” His lan-