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THE *Manitoba College Journal*, always an interesting and instructive little paper, contains an article in the January number on Manitoba Mission Fields, which our Divinity students who are thinking of becoming missionaries would do well to read. While we would not say anything to depreciate Foreign mission work, the first duty of our students is to their own country. There are over twenty stations in Manitoba alone which require to be filled—and the laborers are few. These stations would all, under the care of such students as we have, become in a few years large and flourishing congregations—far superior to half of those which exist here. There is more life and vigor in the West than in the East, and the opportunity of vastly greater growth.

But, besides Manitoba, there is the whole of our North-West in need of missionaries and settled ministers. The work here is certainly as interesting as any in the foreign field, and the probabilities of successful effort infinitely greater. It is only a very rare student—one among a thousand—who is fit for foreign mission service. No

one, for example, should dream of enlisting in this work who has not, to start with, exceptional linguistic abilities. We have already had an example of complete and total failure on the part of one of our foreign missionaries because of this very defect. And there are numerous others, who, while they have failed not quite so pronouncedly as to need official recalling by the Church, are still to a very large extent examples of misdirected, if not wasted, effort.

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Of course, we are all familiar with the common cries on this subject—if a man has only the enthusiasm, the rest will soon follow. We have no desire to depreciate the effects of an enthusiastic temperament. It is true that very little of great or abiding work has been done in the Church, or in the world, either, without enthusiasm. It is true, quite true, that all or almost all the great spirits in thought or action have had enthusiasm. But it is equally true that they had something more. Some of the most veritable cranks we ever knew were enthusiasts. And while some of our foreign mission candidates, who have about as much ability in the line of languages as a frog has in the art of music, hug to their hearts the sweet delusion that enthusiasm will cover a multitude of sins, they are a trifle mixed. "Paul had enthusiasm, and he was the greatest foreign missionary of the ages. We have enthusiasm and we will be Pauls." We confess that the idea is a pretty one. It would doubtless afford much consolation to a man who had been plucked more times than he could count. But prettiness is not always truth; and the worst element about the idea is that it will not stand practice.

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Candidates, again, for the foreign field, should have the constitution of a horse. No man with a weak body has any right to volunteer for foreign service. It is simple suicide. He may think that it is a glorious thing to sacrifice his life for Christ in the endeavor to bring light to those who are in soul-darkness. He is right, other things being equal; it is the best thing he can do. But other things are not equal. There is no necessity laid upon him to make this sacrifice. So long as there are plenty of other men with constitutions adapted to the work of the foreign field, he has no right at all to throw away his life. He can do more work and for a longer time in our own land; work to which his powers adapt him; work just as necessary to the Christian cause—work in which he has reason to expect more fruit than