

CHRISTIANITY IS A ROAD TO WALK.

this last year a call has come from Chile, where 1,000 converts, Baptists, have, through the man who has hitherto led them, appealed to us to take up definite mission work there? Also, that even now our Foreign Mission Board has before it a very definite and attractive proposition, offering us work to do in China, that land of wonderful promise for the Kingdom?

Why have these calls come, in God's providence, to us? Think it out, while you pray, "Why, O Lord, did you send them to us, to me?"

What is the chief consideration that caused our leaders on the Board to hesitate when these calls to service, such opportunities for service, came? Why can the arm that reaches Bolivia not reach Chile, too? And why cannot the hand that blesses India bless China, too—and Bulgaria, on the way? Where is the answer to that question? In our pockets and bank accounts, or in our hearts?

But lift up your eyes and look farther afield, for "there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." In our own India there are still vast tracts of land and millions of people without Christ. Listen! "Only one-third of India has been reached by missionaries, and that one-third only partially." "It seems a fair estimate to say that there are living in India to-day at least 150,000,000 people without Christ." Bhutan and Nepal, border states with a population of 5,250,000 "wholly unoccupied"—not a light burning anywhere. Shut your eyes and think of it, "From the last mission station in North India it is 1,000 miles northward to the next." One thousand miles of darkness, no lights along the way. One word for China—in Manchuria alone are 20,000,000 people, two-thirds of whom, a missionary on the field reports, have not "even been approached yet." That "yet" is eloquent. How long have they waited, how long must they wait "yet," until we are ready to strip ourselves somewhat for them?

Africa, for whose sake Livingstone died; South America, the "neglected continent"—why, in our Bolivia alone, each worker has a parish as large as each worker in Quebec would have if there were only five there! These facts are taken from "The Call of the world," by W. E. Doughty.

What more need we say? John Mott says that what the church needs to-day is imagination. Aye, imagination; in order to really understand and take seriously facts like the foregoing, which reveal world-conditions constituting so many calls for service, so many opportunities for conquest. It would probably mean that sacrifice we spoke about before, it would doubtless entail suffering. Are we good for it? "Lovest thou me?" The world was never in such a receptive mood. Everywhere nations which have been asleep for centuries are now awake and aware and searching for the Truth. They are, to change the figure, plastic and impressionable now under the breath of the changing spirit of the time. Shall we set the seal of Christ upon them now? Shall we? To-morrow may be too late, when they are set and cold again—not in the old superstitious heathenism, but in a new and harder atheism. It is God's glorious day, His day of miracles, "more wonderful than those of the Old Testament," Dr. Mott says, the day of His visitation, "Oh, make Thy people willing in the day of thy power!" * * *

But whither have my New Year's greetings wandered! Ah, that we might give a glad New Year to the nations that sit in darkness!

Sisters in India, our co-workers there, we give you greeting! Needs not to prate to you of sacrifice and suffering for they are your daily companions in the way, albeit their faces are glorified by the radiant presence of One "like unto the Son of God," who also walketh with you. Therefore do you live at the very heart of happiness. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

"So fear not grief, fear not the anguish, thou,

The paining heart, the clasped and prostrate brow;

This is the emblem and this is the sign by which God singles thee for fields divine;

From such a height He stoops, from such a bliss,

Small wonder thou dost shudder at His kiss."

—Stephen Phillips.