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A QUESTION TO CONSIDER.

Among the "noble army" who have laid down their lives for their Master in the dark places of the earth, no name is more worthy of lasting honor than that of Ion Keith-Falconer. A Scotchman, a member of a noble family, a graduate of Harrow and Cambridge, the fastest bicycle rider in England, one of the best shorthand writers of his day, at twenty-nine a noted Arabic scholar and Lord Almoner's Professor of Arabic at Cambridge University, he went at the age of thirty years to undertake "the hardest task on earth," the conversion of the Mohammedans of Southern Arabia. In less than a year fever attacked him, and, after repeated attacks, he wrote to his friends: "How I wish that each attack of fever had brought me nearer to Christ—nearer, nearer, nearer." Shortly after, just a year after going to Arabia, he died, and "all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side." He was a man who looked duty squarely in the face, and then did it, no matter what the cost might be. And he did not hesitate to ask from others the same allegiance to duty as he himself manifested. In the words of his which follow, he was pleading for more recruits for the work to which he was pledged,—particularly for those who, like himself, had independent means and were free to dispose of their lives as they wished. This was the powerful appeal with which he closed his last address to a large gathering in Edinburgh and Glasgow on the eve of his departure:

"In conclusion, I wish to make an appeal. There must be some who will read these words, who, having the cause of Christ at heart, have ample independent means and are not fettered by genuine home-ties. Perhaps you are content with giving annual subscriptions, and occasional donations, and taking a weekly class! Why not

give yourselves, money, time, and all, to the foreign field? Our own country is bad enough, but comparatively many, must, and do, remain to work at home, while a very few are in a position to go abroad. Yet how vast is the foreign mission field! Ought you not to consider seriously what your duty is? The heathen are in darkness and we are asleep. Perhaps you try to think that you are meant to remain at home and induce others to go. By subscribing money, sitting on committees, speaking at meetings and praying for missions you will be doing the most you can to spread the gospel abroad. Not so. By going yourself you will produce a ten-fold more powerful effect. You can give and pray for missions wherever you are; you can send descriptive letters to the Missionary meetings, which will be more effective than second-hand anecdotes gathered by you from others, and you will help the committees finely by sending them the results of your experience. Then, in addition, you will have added your own personal example and taken your share of the real work. We have a great and imposing war office, but a very small army. You have wealth snugly vested in the funds; you are strong and healthy; you are at liberty to live where you like and occupy yourself as you like. While vast continents are shrouded in almost utter darkness, and hundreds of millions suffer the horrors of heathenism or of Islam, the burden of the proof lies upon you to show that the circumstances in which God has placed you were meant by Him to keep you out of the foreign mission field."

"Of those who read these words, are there none who would like to follow in the train of the athlete and scholar whose body lies in the lonely grave by the Gulf of Aden, even as he followed in the train of the Son of God, going forth to war."