

with more vigor and vitality than it ever possessed. May it ever flourish and prosper !

MISSIONARY HISTORY.

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[Address at Synod Hall, Edinburgh, Scotland, July 15.]

GOD does not ask us to give *men* ; but to pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest. We cannot give men ; they, having a will, must give themselves. But God does ask us to give *money*. He calls and qualifies the workmen ; but as a gold sovereign or a silver dollar has no will of its own and can make no choice, we who have the money and have the will must give it. Man must not rob God ; neither will God rob man, *i. e.*, He will not take our money as by force, but only by our free consent. Robbery lies very near to charity. If I take another man's money, without his consent, even for a benevolent purpose, it becomes robbery ; if with his consent, and by argument and persuasion, it becomes charity. It is stated by one who is a student of statistics, that not less than \$8,000,000,000 are hoarded up and lying idle in the hands of professed disciples in America, in money, stocks, lands, jewels, silver-plate, works of art, etc.

We hear of a "crisis of missions." But there is a crisis within a crisis. We need a great revival of the giving spirit. A child was recently gilded over to represent a cherub, and died in three hours. Exhalation through the pores is as necessary to life as inhalation through the lungs. And the church would die were all channels of giving stopped.

This review of missionary history has demonstrated the certainty and celerity of God's blessing upon work done for Him. Morrison in China, Judson in Burmah, Carey in India, Moffat in Africa, each waited *seven* years before the first sign of converting grace and gospel triumph greeted their eyes. Now God seems to be in haste to work wonders. When Darwin first went to Terra-del-Fuego he found a type of humanity so degraded that he found it hard to say whether they belonged above or below the line that separates man and beast. But Allen Gardiner made three attempts to reach these half-animal tribes. He died without seeing fruits ; and his body was found by a rock on which, in chalk, was written his dying testimony : "Wait, O my soul, upon God, for my expectation is from him."

Gardiner died, but his work went on ; and when again Darwin visited that southern cape, he found results of missions so amazing that he wrote a letter asking to become an annual subscriber to missions !

From Hernhutt, two men, David Nitschmann and Dober, went forth, marching 600 miles to reach the seaboard, then finding their way as best they could to the West Indies, becoming as slaves to reach the slave population of St. Thomas. One hundred years after, it was estimated