

## What Can a Woman Do ?

What can a woman do? oh! stop and think  
 Before thine answer be that "there is naught."  
 Think of the millions trembling on the brink  
 Of sin and woe; y cannot these souls be brought  
 Through woman's mighty influence, to own  
 The God of gods, not made of wood and stone.

Think of the thousands sunk in deep despair;  
 Think of the hundreds daily growing woe.  
 And can no woman breathe a feeble prayer,  
 Imploing God to raise the dreadful curse  
 Of ignorance from off the human mind—  
 To heal the broken heart, give sight unto the blind.

Think of Queen Esther in the olden court;  
 On her the welfare of a nation hung.  
 'Twas she alone the mighty monarch sought;  
 And tho' she was from Israel's nation sprung.  
 Yet did he listen: granted all her plea  
 And will not God do greater far for thee?

Who knoweth but he placed thee where thou art  
 For some grand mission, ministry of love  
 Not marked in mighty deeds at which men start.  
 But ceaseless service for thy God above?  
 Perhaps some common act, some daily task,  
 Yet even that thy God of thee doth ask.

Then sit not down with idly folded hands,  
 But look around and up—thyself forgot.  
 Mark the deep misery that sweeps all lands.  
 "Too great a work for me," thou say'st: and yet  
 Thy God hath called thee, hath a work for thee  
 Of great or small, perform it faithfully.

ANNA TEMPLE

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## Christian Civilization a Present Missionary Trust.

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In discussing missions the primary question, of course, is the saving of souls. Other considerations, however, may be appropriately connected with this paramount interest. The advance of the gospel of Jesus Christ has led to the elevation of men under a new civilization that is as certain as is that advance. In India, in China, in the South Sea Islands, among the most cultured and among the most degraded, the positive teachings of Christianity are for the humanizing of people. Wherever Christianity gains footing, the naked are clothed, the unfortunate are cared for, woman is redeemed and given her place, the ignorant are instructed, lands are cultivated, manufactories are established, unknown regions are penetrated and their people brought to the knowledge of the world. Everywhere this is seen and felt as a result of the work of the faithful missionary, and nothing but the Gospel of Jesus has ever accomplished or led toward this most desirable consummation. Since no provision has been made for such a result to come upon the unenlightened save by the efforts of fellow-men as represented in our missionary work,—God working only through His children for the benefit and instruction of His children,—it is evident that Jesus meant that His gospel should be aggressive at the hands of His disciples in all ages. The natural result will be that they will, by right, hold us accountable for having selfishly held back all this knowledge that means culture and prosperity and growth, which we might and by our convictions ought to bestow upon them for their equal benefit. We must not forget that not the heathen peoples

of to-day, but the enlightened nations of the world as they must inevitably be before long, are to judge of this generation who see such wonderful openings for the gospel in the world.

The writer of this paper, though barely fifty-two years of age, can remember back to the days of small things when the business of the American Board was carried on at the small offices in Cornhill, and before the Missionary House in Pemberton Square. He can remember that one of the former Secretaries said to him: "You may live to see the Cannibal Islands under the influence of the gospel, India opened for it, Africa penetrated and explored and brightened by the teachings of Jesus, and even Japan and China the fields of missionary operations." He lived to see it himself! If such strides have been made within this short memory, why may we not believe that our children shall see the gospel preached in all the world—an enlightened world which will then pass its mature judgment upon us?

During our late war the writer was closeted with a distinguished volunteer general of the army who had been "shelved" for cause, and he will never forget the bitter and blasphemous arraignment which that officer made of his father for having denied him the military education which he craved and for which he begged. "Now," said he with terrible bitterness, "I can have part in none of our historic battles that will cause to be distinguished all who are in at the ending of the Rebellion, and where I might have been distinguished I must have disgrace because I was denied the fitting I might have had. It is bitter to me now that I see what it means of loss." This will be the charge brought against us if we neglect the opportunity offered for giving the gospel, which means so much, to the nations who have a right to it as much as have we.

The Church is a lifeboat for the saving of the perishing, and we who are saved must pull on the sweeps that bear it out to those who are sinking in the waters that will engulf them. We are not in that boat to be saved, but to save. If we do not make an effort for them they can call us to account, and that call will be where memory is keen and where it takes in all of possibilities. It is neither Christianity nor humanity—that which congratulates itself on being saved and ignores the perishing. The person drowning in sight of people on shore has a right to expect that they will put forth to the rescue, and would ever hold in abhorrence one who looked on indifferently, even while he was being saved by some one else. Society would look upon such a man in the same way.

It is not necessary for us, in this view of the duty we owe to the heathen world, even to look beyond this present life. We owe civilization to the world of our fellow-men,—our brotherhood under one father,—and one day these brothers of ours will demand of us why we have not given it to them. The great world of needy men who are now ignorant are to wake up some day, and that before very long, to all that is meant by Christian culture, and are to hold us responsible for their lack or for their jardy supply of those essentials to enlightenment which are to the full in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as proved by the condition of all Christian countries, and which are to be found nowhere else, as proved by the condition of all un-Christian countries. That citation to judgment is to be not only before the great God, who has arranged for this method for giving from man to man among the members of His earthly family, but it shall be in presence of that "society" which is the harsh judgment-seat of earth, and which is less kind and more pronounced than is God in the uttering of its words of condemnation.—*Missionary Herald.*