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Is this a time to withdraw Missionaries?

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER BY BISHOP WHIPPLE OF MINNESOTA.

THE way of duty lies right onward, "Speak to the people that they go forward." We know that since our Lord ascended into heaven no branch of His Church has had such a field of labour as he has given His children in America.

We made mistakes (I say *we*) in bringing in questions about names and things. Men claimed victory for this party or that. There was some speech which was half of Ashdod and half of Canaan. We did sometimes mistake infallible self-will for "Catholicity" or "the truth as it is in Jesus." It was not the Lord's doing; "an enemy hath done this"; we have one schism to be healed; we have some alienated hearts. The tears blind my eyes as I write. All this while, men were going down to death without hope of salvation. Many, dear as life, were wandering on the dark mountains; doubt and unbelief were settling over souls, with a death chill; we heard, not the exultant shout of the prophet, but the sneer of the skeptic, "Where is the God of Elijah?"

Amid all these troubles the Lord has given us, in our Foreign and Domestic Missions, as brave, as faithful missionaries as He has ever given to His Church. They

hardly know that there has been any strife. They know nothing about party victories. They are fighting for Christ their King. They have lived hard lives of poverty and self-denial. They have gone on foot preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified. There are missionaries of the Domestic and Foreign Committees who have been doing this work thirty years. Christian men will differ, they have the right to differ, it is a part of the liberty wherewith Christ has made His children free. So long as they know nothing but Christ crucified, as they bring in nothing to divide the fold, and obey those whom the Lord has set over them in His Church, we may be sure no strifes will mar our unity. As the eventide draws on there will be perilous times. The one question for us is, what can we do to hasten His coming? He has opened the whole world for Christian effort, there is no people on the earth to whom we may not carry the Gospel. Is this a time to withdraw missionaries? Where shall we begin? Shall it be in Africa, where Stanley has explored its unknown lands, that heralds of the Cross may go there, and Ethiopia stretch out her hands unto God? Shall it be Greece, by whose doors God is fulfilling prophecies