

to employ a clerk to attend to the correspondence, and the proposal has been strongly urged upon me to go to the Continent for a short rest, and return and resume the work later on in the fall. But for the great church that is entitled to my service at home, I think I should continue this work here.

All this I have written, not because I regard myself as of any particular importance in this work, but because this experience makes doubly plain to me that what is pre-eminently needed is to put the *FACTS of missions before the people*. The great bulk of disciples have never been brought into contact with the thrilling realities of missionary history. We need to point out to disciples the footsteps of God in this march of missions, and then every loyal heart will respond. One of the most world-renowned philanthropists—a man whose name is a household word wherever English is spoken—wrote to me: “Of the great mass of facts presented by you as bearing upon missions, I regret to confess that I have been hitherto profoundly ignorant.” Books on missions are often very voluminous; it requires the leisure, if not the culture, of a scholar to peruse and appreciate them. They are not always pointed, graphic, interesting to the popular mind; frequently there is mixed up with them much that is scientific, literary, foreign to missions altogether. It becomes necessary to wade through a great mass of descriptions of fauna and flora, tedious details as to manners and customs, geography and geology, history and philosophy, to get at a few impressive facts as to spiritual and moral conditions and needs, and the overwhelming proof that God works with the missionaries. Very few books on missions make the hand of God conspicuous—magnify the providence and grace of God in missionary history, so that they stand out like mountains on a landscape. Our whole endeavor has been to confront these intelligent people with the marvelous and wonderful facts that, more than any arguments, convince the most skeptical that God is as actually working now as ever, and that in proportion as we go into all the world and preach the gospel, He is *with us*, working miracles by His providence and grace. This is the argument that rouses the most sluggish, and thrills the most apathetic. Dr. Gordon’s most eloquent appeals were the appeals of facts—the story of Mackay’s twelve years at Formosa, with 1,200 converts; of Jewett and Clough at Ongole, with 10,000 baptisms a twelvemonth; of Darwin’s 2,000 visits to Terra del Fuego, and his subscription to missions because of the enchanter’s wand they wielded in Patagonia; of Judson at Boardman, among the Karens, and the 50,000 converts brought to Christ before Kho Thah Byu’s Jubilee Hall was built; of Coleridge Patteson and John Williams in the South Seas, etc.—these are the sort of facts that convince and confute the practical skepticism of disciples and compel them to see that they have been shutting their eyes to the moving of God’s pillar of cloud.