

RELATING TO MISSIONS.

(Written for the Athenæum.)

It would be hard to describe the mingled emotions of gratitude and joy felt by the members of this small vanguard of Christ's army on the Maritime Baptist field in India, when the news was flashed to them that twelve young men at Acadia had recently pledged themselves to enter the service when ready. Some of us were not taken completely by surprise; the promise of this movement had been seen from afar; prayer is not unavailing and the atmosphere about Acadia is charged with the spirit of consecration to Christ.

THE CALL

to foreign mission service must be a real, live principle, known to the one receiving it by many infallible signs. He will feel the burden of souls pressing heavily upon his heart. He will long most earnestly for opportunities to tell of Jesus' love, and care not in what direction he may be led to find them, and be regardless of surroundings when even his tongue is loosed with the precious messages of grace.

He will recognize, in every face he meets, the likeness of the Son of God, marred now by evil principles within and evil motions without, and a great desire will lay hold of his soul to seek out those most marred, to tell them of their hard condition, that he who has despoiled them has been defeated by One who in his victory has also received, brought, a glorious inheritance to offer to all willing to enter in and possess.

A young man, or young woman, may be the subject of these impressions, and may be unmindful of the "heavenly vision" for many years, but—a passage from my own experience—he will not enter into rest in the Saviour's promises until he yields to them in full surrender of every human wish or tie.

HOW TO BECOME

a missionary is sometimes a puzzling problem, easy of solution however in light of the *Gospel at Work*, "The Acts of the Apostles." While in the West I had occasion to request a doctor—an old army surgeon—to remove a troublesome tooth. In undergoing the operation I remonstrated with him at what seemed unnecessary use of the lance. His reply silenced if it did not comfort: "The great art in pulling teeth is to make sure that you get them."

And this principle is worthy of wider application. The secret of success on any line is to be sure of success at every step. The way to learn how to preach is, to preach. If you would learn how to be a missionary, *be one*. The Home Mission Board has been, under God, a most effective instrument in showing young men *where* to be missionaries. In looking back over the ten years since first my mouth was opened in an attempt to preach Jesus, I can think of no experience more helpful in the lessons learned, more precious as a memory, than the six months spent in teaching a day school, and teaching in Sunday school and preaching in a remote settlement of Nova Scotia, composed entirely of colored people. The surroundings were not always congenial, the glory of human computation to be gained would be a minus quantity, but the knowledge of character acquired has been invaluable, and is appreciated in this land, among this people so similar in thought and habit.

AS TO OPPORTUNITIES

"to be bought out" for Christ on this our own Foreign Mission field; they are limitless in scope. You may safely count on every person you meet—a native—as a soul to be won for Jesus. In rare cases he may have heard of that precious name, but it is altogether likely he has forgotten it by this time since probably he only heard it spoken *once*, and then it was mixed in with what was to him like a wild legend of no possible interest to him.

If you can sit down beside him and pronounce it over and over again, and are able to tell him all the strange title may mean *to him and his*, he will undoubtedly listen, and who knoweth what the result may not be? Thousands of these same Telegu people are confessing Christ in the "Lone Star" mission, 1673 were baptized at Ongole in one day since this year 1891 came in; there is no constraint with God's saving grace. I believe in a few years hence it will be said of our own loved mission, that within its borders thousands are being saved.

Dear brothers, just volunteering for work, if it is not given to us to reap at the harvest-time, it is ours to sow the seed, and bye-and-bye both sower and reaper will rejoice.

M. B. SHAW.

Vizianagram, Jan. 6th, 1891.