

to one missionary and another time to another.

It is astonishing how much good a little money sent to do 'just as you want to' with will do. There are always many kinds of benevolent work for which mission funds cannot be secured which ought to be done and which greatly add to the efficiency and happiness of the missionary, but which can be undertaken only if he has some gift to use at his discretion.

Money can always and easily be sent to a missionary (1) by sending it to the treasurer of his society with a request to forward it as a 'special' donation or as a 'private remittance'; or (2) in any large American town a foreign money order for a very small sum or for a large sum can be bought for a country like India just as easily as a money order to the next town, and the exact current value of the money will be promptly taken to the very house of the missionary for whom it is sent without the sender's even writing to him about it; or (3) through any bank one can easily procure a draft on London for any sum payable to the missionary, and when this draft is sent to him he can easily get it cashed.

If a friend wanted to do some great service to a missionary he might help him to get a bicycle or a typewriter or a sciopticon and slides or a communion set, or an organ for church or Sunday Schools, all of which are most useful in his work. And, after all, nothing is so helpful to one far away and unable to do many of the things that he would be most glad to do for parents, children and others as to have a friend at home be thoughtful for such.

If the missionary is a lady she would be helped by the very things which would be grateful to a lady anywhere.

If one hears criticisms on the work of missions to which some specific answer would be helpful, it may be a kindness to ask your missionary friend to write out his view of the matters under criticism and, if his statement is fitted to be useful in print, get it inserted in some good newspaper.

If an acknowledgment of a letter or gift does not come write again and inquire. Occasionally a letter miscarries. Sometimes sickness or pressure of work cause delay in making proper acknowledgment, and then after long delay the writing is neglected, though of course it ought not to be. Bear with some weaknesses in the friend far away.

### To the Wheat Field.

'Give us this day our daily bread.'

(John B. Tabb, in the 'Christian Age.')

'O Wheat,' the Wind in passing said,  
'Tis you that answers everywhere  
This call of Life's incessant prayer.  
Bow, then, in reverence your head,  
For 'tis the Master's gift you bear.'

### Open-air Preaching.

The truth is, that many professing Christians hold open-air preaching in contempt as being something 'infra dig.'; hence it has been undertaken by a few earnest workers only. Such people need converting to a true sense of responsibility. On the other hand, there is need for open-air preaching to be raised to its true dignity. The best men available are needed for it. The uttering of platitudes and the advertising of ignorance can do no good whatever. A man needs both natural and spiritual gifts of an exceptional order to arrest and detain a shifting, listless crowd. But there is no work more necessary nor more fruitful than this. The best preachers of all ages have preached largely in the open air; the Apostles did so, and chief of all, our Lord set the example. If every church would use its opportunity in this direction during the summer, what a harvest would be reaped.

The readers of the NORTHERN MESSENGER will confer a great favor on the publishers by always mentioning the NORTHERN MESSENGER when replying to any advertiser who uses its columns—and the advertiser will also appreciate it.

### My Lamp, My Light.

My Saviour, through this world's dark night,  
I need a clear and shining light,  
To bring my distant Home in sight,  
And lead me there.

That I from every snare may flee,  
And never wander, Lord, from Thee,  
Thy Word unto my feet shall be  
My Lamp, my Light.

Its cheering beams around me cast,  
Till, darkness ended, danger past,  
I reach my Father's Home at last,  
And rest with Thee.  
—'Friendly Greetings.'

### Be Careful of Your Stories.

Are ministers as careful as they ought to be in the stories they tell? There is a question provoked by the following letter from a minister's wife:

'We find the Pastor's Department profitable and amusing, suggestive and illuminative by turns.

'For eleven years I have been the wife of a home missionary pastor. In that time the life of our home has been enriched by the occasional visits of missionaries, evangelists, officers and ministers. We welcome them all, and I am glad to say we are usually stronger and better because of their stay. We have never yet been disappointed in one of them, and have only happy memories of them all in most respects. The little flaw, in my experience, has been the habit which some clever and really consecrated clergymen have of yielding to the temptation to tell sacrilegious and irreverent stories merely because they are pointed and funny. I well remember an evening when three ministers beside my husband and "our son Timothy," looking toward Christian work, sat at my table. Two of my guests were inveterate story tellers, and, as usual, one led the other on until we were all in a gale of merriment. And then, as so often happens, that inappropriate, almost profane, but irresistibly comical story was produced. We laughed nervously but unwillingly, and I was gratified to see our third guest, one whose life is an inspiration and whose hearty laugh is a most infectious sound, look gravely at our young friend and check the laughter but just begun. As for son Timothy, his look of amazement should have been reproof enough, but my jolly guests were absorbed in their own enjoyment, and another story as bad as the last was forced upon us.

'This has happened more than once in my house, and elsewhere under my observation, even in groups of missionary heroes whose very names are an incentive to the sacrificial life.

'It must be that this matter has never received their sober attention, or that they do not realize how far they go.

'May it not be that it is possible to tell a good story to the glory of God?'—The Rev. W. E. Barton, D.D., in the 'Advocate.'

### Napoleon's Witness for Christ.

Napoleon declared: 'Between Him and whosoever else in the world there is no possible term of comparison. I know men, and Jesus Christ is not a mere man. Superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and the founders of empires, and the gods of other religions. That resemblance does not exist. There is between Christ and all other religious founders the distance of infinity; from the first day to the last He is the same, always the same, majestic and simple, infinitely firm and infinitely gentle.' He asked Count Montholon at St. Helena, 'Can you tell me who Jesus was?' The question was declined, and Napoleon proceeded, 'Well, then, I will tell you. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and I have founded empires, but upon what did these creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to-day millions would die for Him. I think I know something about human nature, and I tell you all these were men, and I am a man. None else is like Him. Jesus Christ was more than man. I have inspired multitudes with such devo-

tion that they would die for me, but to do this it was necessary that I should be visibly present with the electric influence of my words, my look, my voice. When I saw men and spoke to them I lighted the flames of devotion in their hearts. Christ alone succeeded in so raising the mind toward the unseen that it became insensible to the barriers of time and space.'

### A Christian's Insignia.

Few people are aware of the origin of the custom of growing moustaches; but hundreds of years ago this adornment of the face was a sign that the owner was a Christian. The custom first originated in Spain, when the Moors were in possession of that country, prior to their being driven out by the Christians. The Moors were Mohammedans, and it was very difficult to tell the difference between a Mohammedan and a Christian.

The Christians wishing to let their 'light shine before men,' decided to let the hair grow upon the upper lip and on the chin in the form of what is known as the imperial, thus producing the rough form of a cross. In this way the Christians were able to recognize one another at all times, and flocked together when in trouble to make a combined defence.—'Christian Age.'

### Give it To-day.

The past is written, the future is beyond our control, but to-day is ours, and is an opportunity to bestow a gift which will be more welcome than any which money can purchase.

There should be no guesswork concerning affection 'make it plain,' 'write it large.' Silence is golden when it represses bitter words or ignorant comment, but it sinks like lead into the heart which has a right to expect tender and trustful utterances.—'Christian Advocate.'

### A New Illustrated Monthly Announced.

The attention of readers of the 'Messenger' is called to the advertisement of Pictorial Publishing Company on Page 16 of this issue, announcing the appearance of a new illustrated monthly to be called 'The Canadian Pictorial.' Its purpose is to present pictures of current events of well-known people, of things beautiful or curious and to appeal to Canadians as the great illustrated papers of London appeal to the English people. It will do work that the newspapers, printed as they must be, many thousand an hour, cannot do. The new monthly printed on specially prepared paper and produced with all the art of the printers and etchers of the present day, will be well worth preserving as a record of the progress of this great Dominion. The publishers of the 'Messenger' are gratified to be able to announce special rates by which every reader will have an opportunity to see what the new periodical is like, and then subscribe for it at extremely low rates.

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