

the Church are surrounded by a circle of earnest and prayerful laity; while *there*, where our missionaries are at work, are all the sinister influences of heathenism, they work beneath the chilling shadow of unbelief, of false belief, of gross impurity, all but lonely standard-bearers in a hostile country, with nothing to hearten them, and everything to dishearten them, in their efforts after conquest in the name of CHRIST.

Accordingly, the stirring and maintenance of the missionary spirit among ourselves is of the highest possible importance to the success of the missionary work of the Church. You and I may not be called to go out into the Mission Field ourselves; we have perforce to leave this to braver or less encumbered soldiers than we are. But we are unquestionably called to do each his or her part in keeping up the fire of missionary zeal at home. If each and all of us burned with desire for the evangelisation of the world, heathendom would soon be absorbed into the Realm of CHRIST. Who shall say that some features of spreading the Kingdom are not owing—not to the incompetence of missionaries but to the lukewarmness of ourselves?

I shall do no more than indicate three ways open to us at home, whether clergy or laity, of exciting and maintaining the Missionary spirit.

(1) By giving and drawing increased attention to the cause of foreign and colonial missions. Let us try to realise ourselves, and make our neighbours realise, the exceeding bitter cry of the heathen world. The cry "Come over and help us" may be unconscious and inarticulate, like that of a fevered child, but it is real. Humanity wants CHRIST, and can never be really satisfied without Him, His Revelation, His Love.

(2) By earnest and methodical intercession for missions—in our private prayers, at family worship, in informal gatherings for missionary litanies, in Church offices, above all in the Church's great Prayer-Meeting, the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. In some sort our prayers are essential to the success of missions.

(3) By self-sacrificing effort in one way or another. Desire for a blessing without prayer for it is fictitious; prayer without self-sacrifice is hypocritical. The *heart* of the Church must be right with GOD, if her *hands* are to present, in converted nations, an acceptable offering to her LORD.

E. E. D.