

tous protection of the British flag in missionary fields in which it is of greatest value, deserves thankful acknowledgment, which at this time of felicitous we gladly give, as especially due to her Majesty, whose personal character and influence during the sixty years of her reign have done so much to secure this happy condition and other great benefits to mankind.

While this government, then, is so firmly established in India, and shows in multiplied ways so high an appreciation of the assistance rendered by Christian preachers and teachers in elevating the millions whom Providence has intrusted to its care, it certainly seems as though it was the part of wisdom to turn our resources very largely in that direction.

2. *The healthfulness of the climate* is also a very important factor. In some lands a long term of service is practically impossible, if indeed a very few years do not eventuate in a breakdown. This is not so at all in India. The *Indian Witness* gave the other day a list of eighty-one missionaries who had served from thirty to sixty-one years, the average of the whole being thirty-eight and one half. There were seven who had been there fifty years and over, eight between forty-five and fifty, and eleven from forty to forty-five.

With the changes that are possible to the hills, the excellent sanitary arrangements of the stations, the comfortable houses, and the furloughs, a missionary in India has about as good a chance of long life as anywhere, much better at least than in some other fields. And this should encourage free expenditure there, for veterans are worth a great deal to a mission both from their own acquaintance with the work and their ability to rightly and economically disburse the funds intrusted to them.

3. *The devoutness of the people* tells strongly in favor of good effects from toil in India. It is so deeply religious that it sees God everywhere, and does everything religiously. It produces two of the great religions of the earth, and by its zealous missionaries propagated one of them throughout the larger part of Asia. The earnestness in this same direction, which now finds vent in its millions of fakirs and consecrated devotees, needs but to be turned to a more enlightened quarter, and fired with love to Christ to make a conquering host fit to capture the world for Jesus. The Christianity of India will some day put to shame that of England and America. Let it be speedily developed and have a chance.

4. *The wonderful results* already achieved are a bright earnest of what may be legitimately expected in days to come. Nowhere has expenditure been better rewarded. Nowhere is the horizon brighter with brilliant promise.

The hopes of the Church have not been frustrated in India. With greater truth could it be said that the hopes of India have been frustrated by the Church; and when a little advance has been asked to enable the panting toilers to take advantage of the unexampled uprising, their request has been met by a ruthless reduction of what was before painfully insufficient, though expended with cruel economy to meet the pressing need. This is not right.

When will God's people rise to meet these sublime calls of the Master; and enable the Saviour to see the travail of His soul in the redemption of the three hundred millions of that mighty empire of the East? It is our candid and mature conviction that in all the elements that go to make up a magnificent mission field, where money and strength can be laid out to greatest advantage and with an assured certainty of rich return, India stands unequalled. — *Presbyterian Record*.

## Young People's Department.

### RALPH'S LESSON.

"What is systematic giving?" said Ralph Anderson looking up from the Children's pages in the *Missionary Studies*; "that is to be our topic for the next missionary meeting."

"It is giving regularly, according to a plan," said Miss Graves, his beloved teacher, who was spending the evening with the Andersons while their papa was away.

"I do not see any use in bothering with a plan for giving; why can't we give when we have the money handy?" said Ralph.

"Well, God is the Great Giver, let us see how He gives to us. Does He let us go without a harvest two or three years, and feel pinched and hungry, and then give us one or two?"

"Of course not," said Ralph, "we have a harvest every summer, but does God plan for it beforehand?"

"Yes, He made a beautiful plan long, long ago. Just turn to Gen. 8:22, and read aloud," said Miss Graves.

"It says," said Ralph who was quick to find things in his Bible, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease."

"You see, said Miss Graves "that as God has a large family—a whole world full of children to provide for, He planned about it before men lived on the earth at all."

"How Miss Graves?"

"Well, where did that beautiful glowing fire come from?"

"It is coal; it came from the mines," said Ralph.

"Yes, but God planned to store that coal, and covered it up to sleep in its bed centuries before the earth was ready for man. He stored the oil and the gas in the same way."

"I see," said Ralph rather unwillingly, "but you see, sometimes I need all my money for myself, and it would be easier to give my money some other time? It is very easy for God. He has plenty of everything."

"But does the 'other time' ever come?" said Miss Graves.

"Of course it does! Don't I love the Morning Star and the Bridgman School and the Hadjin Home and the Glory Kindergarten? Do you suppose I never give any thing?" exclaimed Ralph indignantly.

"No; not just that, but I was afraid if you have no plan, the 'other time' might not come often enough to keep your share of the children in these schools from suffering."

"My share! Have I a share?"

"Certainly. Our Father has so many to care for, He employs agents, and you are one."

"I'm too small to be an agent!"

"Not you," said Miss Graves, "He employs many kinds of agents much smaller than you, and he wants them to work regularly. About ten or eleven years ago he set an agent at work in your side (whose name begins with H) to keep your blood in motion, and two more in your chest (whose initials are R. L. and L. L.) to draw in fresh air and keep the blood pure. He told them to go on, night and day until He tells them to stop."

"I know what they are!" said Ralph, smilingly.