

son,—and we will hope only for a season,—has made provision for its support. But I should feel thankful if any of you, my brethren, to whom God has given means, would aid in bearing some portion of the cost of this important work.

What it will become, God only knows. It were presumptuous, at this early period of its history, when its very existence is in danger, to speculate on this subject. That it may become an instrument in God's hand for conferring great blessings upon the benighted heathen of Africa, no thoughtful mind can doubt. If the myriads around us and beyond us are ever to be raised out of their degradation, it must be largely through means of themselves. If the Church of Christ is ever to take deep root in Central Africa, it must be mainly through the agency of the native ministry. Christianity has never been perpetuated in any land save through such means. A sprinkling of European teachers, with native teachers under them, is all that we can hope to see scattered over this vast continent.

With the demands made upon the mother Church from all parts of the world, for men as well as means ; with Japan and China opening out to us ; with India, with its claims, and with its judgments, appealing more loudly than at any previous time to the love and zeal of the Church, it were hopeless to think that we shall obtain a great supply of English teachers, or, if we had them, the means for maintaining them. No, we must train and educate, within the land itself, those who already know the language, and habits, and modes of thought of the people to whom they shall be sent, and who shall be fitted to sustain the life, and endure the hardships, which they who would do Christ's work under the burning sun of Central Africa must be fitted to bear. The future, however, is with God. It is enough for us that we see a plain duty before us. We must be content with this, without looking far forward into what may be hereafter.

The work, so far as we can see, is full of hope. Those who have been entrusted to our keeping have already made much progress in many ways, and give fair promise of bearing fruit, and rewarding those who are toiling for their good. May we, brethren, only do our part. May we be Christ's living witnesses in this land in which we dwell. May we pray earnestly that He will accomplish the number of his elect, and hasten his kingdom. May we feel that the advancement of that kingdom is the work of works which is given to each one of us to do. May our alms and offerings be largely and cheerfully given for its extension, and we shall, each in our measure and degree, be fellow-helpers of the truth, fellow-workers with our God, and be privileged to help forward the dawn of that glorious day, when all the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and He alone shall reign, King of kings, and Lord of lords."

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#### CENTRAL AFRICAN MISSION.

A very large and respectably attended public meeting was held on Wednesday afternoon at Manchester, in the Free Trade Hall, in promo-