

HOME MISSIONS.

Dr. McCosh, in the *Philadelphia*, says of the work of the two Princetown graduates who went among the Colleges and Seminaries, in the fall of 1886, to invite students to declare themselves willing and desirous to be foreign missionaries:—"I have been furnished with a report of what they have done. I am amazed at their success. I was not prepared for it. The deepest feeling I have is that of wonder as to what this work may grow. The number of Institutions which have been heard from is ninety-two. *In these no fewer than one thousand five hundred and twenty-five students have offered themselves as willing and desirous to be foreign missionaries.* Of these over one thousand two hundred are young men, and three hundred are young women. They belong to various evangelical denominations."

Dr. McCosh asks in forcible words what is the corresponding duty of Christians when God has called these workers? Dr. McCosh adds:

"Christians cannot but notice this event occurring before their eyes. They cannot oppose it lest, haply, they be fighting against God. We are bound to ponder it. If it be a work of God it cannot be set at naught, and we must be fellow-workers with Him. For years I have known the two young men who are visiting the Colleges. I can testify that they were able and excellent students, and are consistent Christians. They are doing their work modestly, with no flourish of trumpets, trusting only in a power from above. Judging from those who have done so here, I believe that those who have offered to go to the mission field are sincere and thoroughly in earnest."

ENCOURAGEMENT.

When difficulties and troubles arise and temptations assail us, and faith almost fails, do we remember the blessed promise that "the Lord will not cast off his people"—that he will never forsake those who put their trust in him? Do we bear in mind that though he abhors sin, he still loves the sinner, and will ever bear up the penitent and struggling disciple in the arms of his love? And are we not both encouraged and directed to cast ourselves on his sympathy, and promise, and love, and so find encouragement, and grace, and strength according to our need?

Nor should we be discouraged by even our shortcomings and failures, if we are but penitent and endeavoring to be faithful. For as good old Charnock says, a true Christian "may fall from the comforts of grace, but not from the habits of grace; a child of God may be cast down, but can never be cast off; and as Flavel has truly said; "A child of God may fall very low, but he can never fall below the promises." And the Saviour himself declares, of those that love and trust Him, that "they shall never perish, and none shall ever pluck them out of his hand."

Never, then, should the believer be discouraged by the discomforts and trials, or even the failures of the way. Keep but the end in view, and hold fast to the divine promise, and comfort on the way and victory in the end is sure.

Think of the gain only, count not the losses;

Think of the crown only, count not the crosses;

Think of the angels surrounding the throne;
Think of the triumph so soon to be won;
Think how His love all thy way shall attend;

Safely to bring thee to heaven in the end!
Weary not; murmur not; faint not, nor fail;

Jesus hath promised; His word shall prevail! —*Sol.*

HOME COURTESIES.

"I am one of those whose lot in life has been to go out into an unfriendly world at an early age; and of nearly twenty families in which I made my home in the course of about nine years, there were only three that could be designated as happy families; and the cause of trouble was not so much the lack of love as the lack of care to manifest it." The closing words of this sentence give the fruitful source of family alienation, of heartaches innumerable, of sad faces and gloomy home circles. "Not so much the lack of love as the *lack of care to manifest it.*" Not more than three happy families in twenty! and the cause so easily remedied! In the "small courtesies of life" what power resides! In a look, a word, a tone, how much of happiness or disquietude may be communicated! Let us all think of it, and take the lesson home to our own lives.—*Ex.*