

countrymen. None can be reasonably either discouraged or surprised at occasional instances of defection among men so employed, who have recently professed to emerge from a state of "abominable idolatries." It is well known that lamentable cases of this nature occur even in Christian lands, among preachers who have been piously trained from early youth. Brother Crawley is manifestly very strict with preachers under his supervision, and neither employs nor retains any whose moral conduct is not blameless, and whose efforts in the cause of Christ are not constant and earnest. Mis-sionaries in India, quite competent to form a correct judgment on the subject, whilst they deem it requisite to send brethren from home to instruct and superintend the native preachers, regard the latter as the principal means by which the light of truth is to be diffused in those dark regions, and souls are to be gathered into the fold of the Saviour. Rev. Mr. Smith, of Rangoon, says, "Burmah must look to her own pious young men to build up and plant churches throughout her borders, till the wilderness shall bud and blossom as the rose. And obviously it is one of the most economical ways in which the American churches can dispose of their strength, to train up and send forth pious, zealous young natives, who shall go up and down throughout the land, 'bearing precious seed.'" With reference to the manifest sincerity and freedom from self-interest evinced by numbers of these preachers, Rev. Mr. Bronson, of Assam, writes, "Some of these brethren have sacrificed government pay and good situations for less pay in mission service." (Mis. Mag. April 1865, p. 102, 104.)

A statement published last autumn in which Rev. Dr. Kincaid deplored that, for want of funds, he was obliged to dismiss zealous and efficient native preachers, who might have been sustained at "from four to five dollars a month," appears to have excited an increased interest in the subject of furnishing means to keep such men in the field. Measures, however, were speedily adopted in the United States to supply the funds required for this particular object.

But while churches and individuals, both male and female, in these Provinces, were being prompted to acts of noble generosity in making provision for the support of Burman laborers—as shewn in the Treasurer's Report—a supply of