

and recognise as one great spring of missionary enthusiasm the desire to save the souls with whom we are brought in contact, we would urge upon all who are engaged upon this work the paramount importance of building up the Body of Christ, never losing sight of the great principles of Church order and constitution, and watching with the utmost earnestness over the spiritual growth of those who have been baptised. We offer an earnest caution against the waste of strength in sporadic and unsystematised missions, conducted by some Churchmen apart from the guidance and brotherhood of the Church, whilst we recognise unhesitatingly the loving devotion which deserves to be guided into channels that may permanently enrich the Church of Christ.

Among the illiterate races of the world, those of Africa claim a prominent place. The recent acceptance of Christianity by many tribes of Central Africa constitute at once an encouragement and an appeal; an encouragement, because of the evidence which is forthcoming of the readiness of the evangelised to become themselves evangelists; an appeal, because of the proof which the acceptance of the truth by these tribes affords of the preparedness of kindred tribes for the preaching of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We would emphasise the necessity of stronger efforts to bring to the native races those gifts of God which alone can form in them the character necessary to stand against the present inrush of our civilisation, so deadly to the untaught heathen. The present activity of Mohammedanism makes it the more necessary to enter quickly into the doors which are now open in those lands.

Turning to the methods by which the propagation of the Gospel is affected, we thankfully note a rapid increase in the number of women who are giving themselves to the service of the

Missionary Church; a service in which a special and honorable place appears to be reserved, in God's Providence, for such devotion, especially at the present critical point in the Church's growth. Under many forms of national life and custom, it is only by women, that women, on whose influence so much depends, can be reached; and this constitutes a pressing call to the women of our own Communion to offer themselves for this work.

We notice, with like thankfulness, the increased employment of medical missionaries in the mission field, exhibiting as their ministry does the benign character of our Blessed Lord, who went about doing good to the bodies as well as to the souls of the people.

Realising the special dangers which arise from isolation and loneliness, we commend the practice of missionary clergy and laymen going forth two by two; and we believe that, under some circumstances, notably in great centres of work among the heathen, there may be special advantages and safeguards in community life.

If we pass, without further remark, the great function of education as a missionary agency, it is only because its importance and value are obvious and undisputed.

We would emphasise the necessity of a closer acquaintance with the smaller details of custom and life of those to whom the missionaries, men and women, are sent; ignorance of which so often causes unknown and unintended, but none the less real, friction between the workers and both converts and heathen.

Above all there is required personal holiness in all who go into these heathen lands from Christian countries. For while our missionaries tell us that the greatest obstacles to their work, on the side of the heathen themselves, are the tyranny of caste without and the paralysing influence of pantheism within, they agree that a