

too, crying "Come over and help us," do certainly present a loud call to the ministers and licentiates of the Church to consider carefully, if it is not the will of God that they should go and tell them of the love of Jesus to poor perishing sinners. It is true that there are difficulties, discouragements and trials before those who engage in the prosecution of that Mission. But surely he to whom all power is given in heaven and in earth can overcome these difficulties, remove the discouragements, or sustain under them and make trials ultimately blessings. With one exception, I know no field to which I would feel myself more loudly called, to devote my energies, should the Church see fit to sanction the enterprise.

#### QUALIFICATIONS FOR FOREIGN WORK.

I cannot say indeed that I feel myself to be fully qualified for the work; looking at the responsibilities of those who devote themselves to the work of winning souls and comparing with the requirements of such a situation my own ability to meet them I fear that in despair I should give up for ever not only foreign work but also labour at home. I know that the ambassador of Jesus, even in Christian lands, ought to have ardent zeal for the glory of God, a burning love for the souls of men, a deep and fervent piety, at least a fair amount of intellectual vigour and ability; that in addition to these qualifications the missionary should have a special aptitude for the acquisition of languages, a facility in adapting himself to a change of circumstances, fertility of resource in difficulty, self-possession and presence of mind in danger, and that even in the possession of all these he might still say, "Who is sufficient for these things." Though feeling that in many of these points I fall very far short of what would be desirable in one undertaking the missionary work, yet who can limit the grace of God? With the weak things of this world *He* can confound the mighty. His own sustaining promise is "My grace is sufficient for thee, and my strength is made perfect in weakness," and then there is besides that precious assurance, "Lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world." Believing that where there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath and not according to that he hath not, I feel satisfied to accept the promise and to rely upon it for strength in whatever circumstances God may see fit to place me.

#### CLAIMS OF THE JEWS.

But, as already hinted, there is one department of Foreign Missionary Labour, which seems to my mind to have stronger claims than even the South Seas. Loud as are the calls from heathen lands, and strong as are the inducements to labour among the Gentiles, at present, I feel that the finger

of Providence points me to His ancient people, the Jews. You will not perhaps be surprised when I assert that I make this statement of what seems to me to be duty, with very great diffidence. Knowing that our Church is already engaged in an enterprise in another direction, I cannot but fear that I incur the risk of being looked upon as amusing myself with novelties, or with following, what some might call a sentimental fancy, rather than the dictates of sober judgment. But be that as it may, I feel perfectly clear in affirming, that I have gone to the Word of God to guide me in this matter. All my inclinations to engage in such work were excited by its study, and fostered by a further consideration of the truths which it reveals. It is true that I may have misinterpreted the Divine Oracle. If so, I am open to conviction, and if after a more protracted search, and mature deliberation, I am convinced that I have not understood aright the mind of the Spirit, I will give up my present purpose, and place myself at the disposal of the Church, to go, wherever she may see fit to send me; for I am fully convinced that whatever share of wisdom there may be about mere human plans, if they are not in accordance with the will of God, they will come to nought; and I have no desire to be found fighting against God. It is therefore under the influence of a strong conviction of duty, that I place myself in the hands of the Church, desiring to go forth as a missionary to the Jews, should she see fit to engage in a Jewish mission, and to employ me in her service. In making this proposal, I feel that it is only respectful to you, and justice to myself to state some of the reasons which have induced me to take this step. In doing so, it will be absolutely necessary for me to confine myself to a very few of them, as else I should trespass beyond all reasonable limits.

#### NUMBER AND CONDITION OF THE JEWS.

First. The Numbers and Present Condition of the Jews, when in connection with the comparatively feeble efforts which have been made for their conversion, seem to me, to call loudly for increased exertion, on their behalf. Concerning their number, the statistics to which I have had access differ widely. In Newcomb's Cyclopædia it is set down at 14,000,000. Other authorities think that there are not more than 6,000,000. Perhaps the safest estimate would be somewhere about 10,000,000. Looking then at this vast multitude, merely as human beings, they have a very strong claim upon our Christian sympathy and beneficence. In this respect they stand at least upon a level with the heathen, for though the Jews possess a part of the scriptures, yet rejecting as they do, Jesus as the promised Messiah, at death they go down to darkness. But I