

have a perennial spring or it will run dry ; giving must be a *habit*, not a response to an occasion. An appeal, or even a respectable custom, a necessary and integral part of worship and work, a feature of Christian life and service no more to be omitted than praying. That primitive meeting at Kettering must set the key-note to missions for the new century. Thirteen pounds ! more than a pound apiece ! If the membership of all Protestant churches gave at that rate in 1893, we should have *four times as much* as ever was contributed in a year !

It is a very noteworthy fact that the man whom God chose to inaugurate this magnificent work of organized modern missions was not one whom men would have selected. The simple truth is, *He never does* ; for His own standards of qualification are essentially different from those of men. Carey's election of God to this great trust was an illustration of the grand principles stated in 1 Cor. 1 : 26-29. There were in Carey five great elements of fitness for this work, and not one of them defies imitation, and that is the blessed encouragement for us all. The five elements were character, acquaintance with the Word of God and the facts of man, resolution, education of self, and yielding of self unto God. Let us glance at these five requisites.

Character underlies everything. Reputation is but its reflection and echo, and oftentimes untrue and unfair. The character is the man himself as he is ; the reputation is the man as others take him to be. We may all well care little for the reputation if we take care of the character. No man has ever wrought for God, from the days of Abel until now, who has not had this corner-stone beneath his work—CHARACTER. To *be* rather than to *seem*, to be what God would have us be, that is the first condition of doing what He would have us do. Carey was a genuine man. He represented that sterling worth which we call by the name of character ; and instead of his lowly calling or sphere or station in life degrading the man, the man dignified the calling and glorified his humble surroundings.

He next cultivated acquaintance with the Word of God, on the one hand, and the facts about man on the other. He found the remedy before he understood the need ; but as he studied Cook's " Voyages Round the World" and kindred books, and gathered information of the destitution and degradation of man, he saw that in that inspired, infallible, universal Gospel he had the sovereign panacea for all human ills, wants, and woes. Few things are more sublimely instructive in all history than the sight of that humble cobbler at Hackleton and Moulton, sitting on his bench with a shoe on his lap, halting in his work to cast a glance at the open pages of Cook's " Voyages," as the book lay on the end of the bench ; then, as the blows of his hammer fell on the sole of the shoe, his mind was reflecting on the misery of the millions of the pagan peoples and the way to reach and remedy their degradation. Absent-minded, indeed ! but not idly, indolently dreaming. He was a spiritual discoverer and inventor, planning one of the master enterprises of the ages. The spark of a Divine