

its own field and fights its own battle, with little or no reference to others.

But, in the mean time, the topic should be taken up in such magazines as the *MISSIONARY REVIEW*, and suggestions offered, out of which some orderly scheme might ere long be evolved. Unless something of this kind is done, there will be increasing collision, however unintentional, in the foreign field. Connected with this is the question of what is called mission comity, which is of vast importance and no small complexity.

In the earnest call for European missionaries, in which we heartily rejoice, let not the Church forget that the evangelization of each land must be conducted mainly through its own believing children. When conversions take place churches must be formed and, after the example of Paul and Barnabas, elders "ordained in every church" (Acts. xiv. 23). Next, the raising up of native preachers and teachers is a matter of primary importance. We say teachers—*i.e.*, schoolmasters, as well as preachers.* At the present time a large body of Christian teachers would be of unspeakable value in India and Japan. This matter has been far too much overlooked. In recent discussions we have heard much about the necessity of self-denial. But we have not heard enough. The principle is both deeper and wider than many think. We have been told that it is binding on all missionaries—"Missions are so expensive;" but is there any reason for saying that it is more binding on missionaries than on other Christians? Ministers at home; all office-bearers in the Church; all members of the Church; every man that professes himself a Christian—is not self-denial the imperative duty of all such? Yet how much luxury among multitudes who, in the judgment of charity, must be held to be real Christians! Has any Christian a right to try to be a millionaire? If he has become so, has he a right to remain so? For meanwhile the outlay of the Church by no means keeps pace with the increase of the wealth of the nation or, as we believe, of the Christian portion of it; and all our missions languish for lack of funds. A trumpet-blast is needed to rouse the slumbering Church. Fields are white to the harvest; the laborers are ready to go forth; but means to send them are a-wanting. "Well," says a self-complacent church, "let us have cheap or even self-supporting missionaries." Self-support, in many places, would be easy; for example, in India a well-educated man could readily find Government employment, and have three or four times the salary of an ordinary missionary. Is that desirable, seeing that very little time would remain for evangelistic work? Many seem to think it is. Yes; these are enlightened days; many have got far beyond the standpoint of St. Paul, and they think it well to muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn.

As we have glanced over the recent history of missions, we have been greatly saddened by the many deaths that have met our eye; and the

* In a paper read before the Decennial Conference at Calcutta in 1882, the writer had occasion to dwell on this subject at considerable length.