

be wrong, on any given question, but the probabilities are all on the other side.

In rare instances an Elihu may rise up in the councils of the patriarchs, and with perfect justice say—"Great men are not always wise, neither do the aged understand judgment. I am young, and ye are very old, therefore hearken unto me." But as a general rule, in the councils of the mission it will be found the safest way to let "Days speak, and the multitude of years teach wisdom."

5. You will exercise great wisdom in *presenting the gospel to the heathen*. You will find among them so much senseless superstition, so many shameful abominations, and such an amount of horrid cruelty, that, as soon as you can at all speak to them, you will feel strongly pressed in spirit to remonstrate, to rebuke, to denounce, and even to interfere; but beware of approaching them from this side. Let the ignorance, and the wickedness, and the wretchedness of heathenism take their own course, because you will make nothing of them by direct assault. Leave the old system to itself; approach the natives from the opposite point; bring to their notice the new system; show them, as you best can, the light, and the goodness, and the happiness of Christianity. Do not exhibit the gospel to them as a system of restrictions, forbidding this and denouncing that; but exhibit it as a system of attractions, promising this and bestowing that; you will then realize the truth of Chalmers's well-known aphorism—"The expulsive power of a new affection."

You will exhibit to them the Sabbath with its rest, the Bible with its blessings, and heaven with its everlasting joys. You will begin by translating to them the sweetest promises, the most interesting narratives, and the most delightful parables in the Word of God. Like our Saviour on the Mount, you will open your mouth and teach them, saying—"Blessed, blessed blessed: Blessed are the poor in spirit; blessed are the meek; blessed are the merciful." You will proclaim them to the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious. You will expatiate on the mercy of God, the love of Christ, and the grace of the spirit; and the love of Christ will constrain them. Not but that Satan will stir up opposition and raise persecution; but notwithstanding this, if Christianity is presented to them in this form, the new religion will come among them, cheering as the morning light, refreshing as the morning dew, and joy-inspiring as the songs of angels, or the music of the heavenly host.

6. You will exercise great prudence in your intercourse with our *fellow-countrymen not connected with the mission*. Their presence among these islands is an element that

cannot be ignored; and, from the way in which you deal with this element, your usefulness and comfort will be a good deal affected. Their interests and those of the natives will at times come into collision, and you may find it to be your duty to interfere. Your duty as a missionary to the natives, requires you to protect their interests, as far as you are able, whenever these may be unjustly invaded by our fellow-countrymen; but such interference on the part of the missionary requires to be conducted with great prudence, otherwise he may do more ill than good.

But independently of this you will come frequently into contact with them. You will find a great variety of character among them. You will find some of them to be very good respectable men, anxious to benefit the mission as far as they are able; you will find most all of them ready to oblige you, ready to bring you a letter or take one away from you, or do you any favour that lies in their power. But you will find not a few of them who, by their example, or by their aims and occupations, will be greatly more of a hindrance than a help to you in your work. How to act towards this latter class especially requires much wisdom and much prudence. "If it be possible, as much as lies in you, live peaceably with all these men." Avoid throwing them into direct antagonism to your work, if you can do so without being partakers of their evil deeds, or conniving at their sinful conduct. You will, in general, suffer wrong rather than provoke a quarrel.

You will have many opportunities of doing good to our fellow-countrymen, which you will not fail to improve. You will have opportunities of preaching the gospel to them, of circulating Bibles and good books among them, of dispensing medicine to the sick, of exercising hospitality to the stranger, of speaking to them words of counsel or of comfort, and, in a variety of ways, of showing kindness to them and promoting their welfare. By wisely and sedulously seeking to benefit their souls and their bodies, and when you can do nothing more by exhibiting in your conduct the meekness and gentleness of Christ, you will—silently it may be, but surely—require among them an influence for good that will at once protect you and benefit them. It is reported of one missionary in the South Seas, that, from the kind, obliging, unselfish disposition which he displays towards our fellow-countrymen, there is not a captain of a trading vessel who knows him but would go fifty miles out of his way in order to take him a letter. "Who is he that will harm you if ye be followers of that which is good." But in the view of all these requirements, you may be ready to say, "Who is sufficient