

Where maidens of different antecedents, rank, age, temperament, and (in minor matters) opinions, are brought together in closest proximity in a climate which tries the temper, there is at least a *possibility* of some slight rubs, which, without the soothing ointment brought by the peace-maker, may even develop into sores! There should never be heard the exclamations, "I cannot work with X.!" "It is impossible to get on with Q.!" One might almost say that the most valuable laborer is less she who displays most zeal, or endures the greatest amount of fatigue, than she whom all her sister missionaries love; who bears with the tiresome, instructs the ignorant, and never wounds by an unkind look, or provokes by a sarcastic word.

*"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."*

— *India's Women.*

### The Language.

"No work to report except study of the language." "All the first year one is so handicapped by not knowing the language." "This Chinese language is a fearful and wonderful combination of sound." "My chief work is the language." "Six months will not make one at all proficient in this outlandish language." "Hard to wait so long before we can do any work." "I am happy to believe the Lord is enabling me to take hold of the language. I have faith that I may master it in time." These expressions taken from the letter file, are samples of those which in endless variation sprinkle first year communications from all the missions. "How are you getting on with the language?" is a common salutation on the field, especially among veteran missionaries who are ploughing into the roots of it and keep a private teacher all the time. And, "Can I learn the language? How long before I can make myself understood?" anxiously inquires the young missionary-elect of the senior who is at home on furlough.

"The language" is not only a staple subject of conversation but a solid feature of missionary toil and results. The necessity for thorough mastery of it is more and more recognized by Mission Boards and incompetency in this direction is justly considered sufficient ground for recalling one from the field. Speaking through an interpreter is now held in universal disesteem. Dr. Hunter Corbett says: "It is my sincere conviction, deepened by over thirty years' experience in China, that *nothing* can be successfully substituted for learning the language well."

The inauguration of language examinations marked a distinct advance in mission methods. Besides securing a higher grade of work from