

MISSION FIELD.

VARIOUS MEANS OF AIDING
THE CAUSE OF FOREIGN
MISSIONS.A PAPER READ AT A CONFERENCE AT
SALISBURY.[From the S. P. G. Mission Field
for April.]

Of all the many ways in which the cause of Foreign Missions may be aided, we may well put *Prayer* in the foremost place; and in contemplating this primary duty of prayer, in reference to the Missionary cause, we must consider it under its threefold head, namely 1. private, 2. family, 3. public. First, then, as regards private prayer, we should ever bear in mind, and should remind our people, that the three first petitions of the prayer taught us by our Lord Himself are for the spread of the Gospel in the world. The hallowing of the name of our Heavenly Father, the coming of His kingdom, and the doing of His will in the world, are the very objects which we have in view when we send forth our Missionaries (as far as our powers permit), in accordance with our Saviour's command, 'into all the world,' to 'preach the Gospel to every creature' (St. Mark xvi. 15). Surely, then, we ought ever to bear in mind, when we say the Lord's Prayer, that we are in it praying for the cause of Missions, and that intention should be in our hearts on every occasion of its use. But we must by no means confine ourselves to the Lord's Prayer in our intercessions for Foreign Missions within our private chambers. Many forms of prayer on behalf of Missions have been published, some of which are most suitable for private use; but it is also well to bear in mind that it will add definiteness and force to our prayers in private, if from time to time we offer them up with special reference to particular portions of the vast field of Missionary labour, or to some special objects in connection with Missions, which may have claimed our individual attention, or which may have been pointed out to us as urgently needing sympathy and help. Such objects, as well as the general work of Missions, ought to be borne in our minds, and be subjects of earnest petition when we are engaged in the highest act of prayer in the celebration of the Holy Communion.

But, secondly, we should endeavour to impress upon our households the duty of prayer for Foreign Missions, and it would be well that in family prayers there should always be inserted a supplication on behalf of Missions.

Thirdly, as regards public prayer, the observance of the day appointed for intercession for Foreign Missions should be strictly enforced as far as practicable in every parish, and every facility should be afforded for the united prayer of all parishioners, as well as for continual intercession during the day, when it can be conveniently arranged, as it generally can be in town churches,

"The truth, the whole truth,
and nothing but the truth."



policy for you; but perhaps you use Pearline. Millions do.

Not True

Peddlers and some unscrupulous grocers will tell you, "this is as good as" or "the same as Pearline." IT'S FALSE—Pearline is never peddled, and if your grocer sends you something in place of Pearline, the honest thing to do is—*send it back.*

That's what you ought to know about the thing you wash with. What good soap doesn't hurt, *Pearline* cannot. That's only part of the truth. *Pearline* washes and cleans without the rubbing and scrubbing that wear things out—without the work that makes women old. Half your labor is spared by it; twice the work is done with it; time and money are saved by it. "Nothing but the truth" is the best policy for us; "nothing but *Pearline*" is the best

if not always in country villages. Let us not be discouraged if our prayers seem to have no immediate answer. We bear in mind how long Sarah and Rebekah waited for children; so it will be with the Church, of which they were types.

From the duty of prayer we naturally turn to that of preaching on behalf of Foreign Missions, a duty which is imperative upon all clergy. We have to impress upon our congregations all the commands of our Lord and Master. We speak in His name to our people, and we must therefore tell them the plain truth that a charge is laid upon them, as members of Christ, to take some part in the all-important work of evangelising the world. How to do this in the best way is a matter for the very serious consideration of all clergyman; and it must be allowed that the various circumstances of our parishes and congregations call for variations as to the times and methods of preaching on behalf of Foreign Missions. It is, however, suggested that an annual Missionary sermon is a very inadequate mode of teaching our people their duty towards Foreign Missions. Quarterly sermons are far better when practicable, especially if accompanied with special intercessions in the church or schoolroom after the sermon, but even more than this may well be done in most places. Allusions may be made frequently in our sermons to the great work of Missions, and thus the subject may be constantly brought to the minds of our hearers. A 'strange' preacher, especially one who has worked in foreign lands, may be more attractive, and, therefore, it is well to have such from time to time. But, after all, the clergyman of the parish is the right man to preach upon the duty of helping in the work of Missions, and the 'strange' preacher should be invited to tell how the work is being carried on.

We pass on to consider a means of aiding this great cause, which is

open to the laity equally with the clergy, and that is, attending public meetings for Missions and speaking at them. But this cannot be done effectually without some considerable knowledge of the subject, and therefore it implies, or presupposes, a careful perusal of the publications which relate to Missionary work. These are very numerous in the present day, and they give full information as to what is being done towards converting the world to the Christian Faith. In connection with the subject of speaking at public meetings on behalf of Foreign Missions, it is well to note how much has been done of late years (particularly in the county of Hants) by means of Missionary garden and drawing room parties; for thus the subject has been more forcibly brought home to the minds and hearts of laity in the upper ranks of Society than can usually be done by meetings in village schoolrooms, or in places of assembly in our large towns. A further amount of interest and an important source of profit is added to such gatherings of gentry, if there is at the same time a sale of work. But it may be well to add a word of caution that care should be taken on such occasions that nothing unworthy of the sacred cause should take place. Raffles and theatricals seem by no means to harmonize with the great work of preaching the Gospel of Christ; and even the sale of work should not be allowed to degenerate into an ordinary bazaar, in which people sometimes seem to excuse themselves from acts of real self denial on behalf of a good cause, by amusing themselves in the manufacture, and in the sale and purchase, of articles which tend to minister to idleness or vanity. Let the work contributed be the honest outcome of a determination to give something for the Lord's sake to the cause of Missions, especially from those who are thereby enabled to make offerings when they are precluded by narrow

means from making contributions of money. Upon such efforts a blessing will, without doubt, rest.

(To be continued.)

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