

The track of the slave caravan is marked by a line of bleaching bones.

Christian people listen and hear the wails of two million who are annually destroyed by the barbarous slave-trade. What are they to do? Will they merely read elaborate and graphic essays in Reviews on this subject and in their blessed security turn to God and thank Him that they are not so afflicted? Many will wrap themselves in their costly mantles and shut themselves up in their splendid homes and possibly pray that God may enlighten the heathen and send the gospel to places now the scenes of abominations and horrid cruelties. But when a request for contributions to Foreign Missions is made they become surly, complain of the demands made upon them by the church and it may be that with bad grace they will give a trifle, less than they will spend when next they go to town, in the bar-room, or in the tobacco shop. Does such conduct manifest the spirit of the gospel? Will not their thanks-givings and prayers be an abomination in the sight of God? May it not be more tolerable, in the day of judgment, for the Arab slave-hunters than for such people? Christ beheld a world in bondage and misery, greater far than any misery man can bring upon his fellow men. He left His Father's glory, identified Himself with a lost world that He might save it. He gave His Spirit to His chosen disciples who left all and followed Him in publishing the gospel to mankind. If we have His Spirit we shall consecrate ourselves and what we have to the interests of His Kingdom. Why should we listen with a brother's sympathy and hasten with a brother's love to rescue the heathen from present and future misery? Because we are Christians, because we have the Spirit of Christ.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor," etc.

"I sing but as the linnets sing,
I sing because I must."

We send the gospel to the heathen because we must. "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel." Necessity is laid upon us.

II.

Throughout the Christian world there are many, too many, who hold an indifferent or even a hostile attitude towards missions. They regard the missionary idea a delusion, the offspring of an unhealthy enthusiasm. They join with the great army of worldly men who maintain that one religion is as good as another. "Why meddle with the heathen?" they say. "They are now