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"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem! let my right hand forget its cunning."—Ps. 137, v. 5.

ESSAY ON MISSIONS.

[THE following Essay on Missions, the production of the late Thomas McCurdy, son of the Rev. Daniel McCurdy of Wallace River, was written when he was a student of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. Having been kindly placed at the disposal of his father for publication, it will no doubt be acceptable to the readers of the *Record*, and may, perhaps, be useful in stimulating the interest with which the missionary efforts of our Church are regarded.—ED.]

"Let us follow heavenly wisdom as laid down in the Bible: 'Give,' 'Go,' and thereby save ourselves, our country, and the world."—REV. SRELDON DIBBLE.

The greatness of any work depends, in a measure, on the amount of difficulty connected with its performance. The Church's mission, based upon the Saviour's commission to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," is an enterprise surrounded by difficulties of no ordinary magnitude—by difficulties which, when presented to human skill, and when laid in the way of human effort, admit of no removal by these means. And it is not strange news to us, that the difficulties of preparing the way for the world's conversion are so vast. The Author of that salvation with which He designed to visit all nations, Himself forewarned His inexperienced disciples of the perils which they must encounter ere they should fulfil the terms of the Great Commission.

If present success were the proper criterion

of greatness, that anti-christian combination which matures its schemes, soul-destroying and heaven-daring—which pushes onwards its mighty enterprise, all too successful in bringing nations to its feet—which aims utterly to overthrow the authority of the Prince of Peace, and which aspires to the same universal dominion that is claimed by right on behalf of the Kingdom of Christ, would appear to be the greater enterprise. Though inglorious, this diabolic scheme is unquestionably great. It is a battle waged against the Lord and His Anointed by the perverted faculties of the soul, prompted and abetted by despairing and revengeful fiends. But success is no true criterion of merit or of greatness. A great work may be a great work undone. The Christian enterprise was all future. To a great extent, its ends are yet unaccomplished. It is still in the future. Before it can be effected, there are many enemies to be overthrown. There are many spoils to be taken—many trophies to be won. There is much land to be possessed. Many true heroes have fallen in the battle strife. Many more may yet have to fall. In every contest hitherto, that which obstructed the way of the Christian missionary enterprise presented a facility to the progress of the Anti-christian mission. Antichrist has become a rival missionary, overflowing with wicked zeal; and there are many Antichrists. The world is full of them. They must all be subdued. The Church must grapple with them all, and who says not that the Church's scheme is the greater enterprise? The Church must purify herself and rise up to the conflict. Antichrist is an