

love God gave His own Son to be the propitiation for the sins of the whole world, He should at the same time have commanded us to go into all the world and preach this Gospel to every creature. As the marble nose in some perfectly sculptured face is felt to be beautiful because of its harmony with the other features, so we may appreciate the beauty of foreign missions when we study the consistency of their methods with God's procedure everywhere in the manifestation of Himself.

Again, foreign missions are not only thus one with God's general method, but they themselves in all their activities are under the control of one idea. It is not simply their harmony with the other features of the Divine plan that is beautiful, but also the harmony of their own various agencies. The nose of the sculptured face may be beautiful in itself and without any reference to the rest of the face. Indeed, this is the highest kind of absolute beauty. It is strikingly apparent in the case of foreign missions. This is so, not so much because of the singleness of their purpose, as because of its unique comprehensiveness. Where else will you find so many and so diverse instrumentalities all subordinated to one end? The missionary himself is often a preacher, a teacher, an author, a translator, a legislator, a mechanic, a physician, a scientist, an explorer; like Paul, "he is made all things to all men, that he may by all means save some." And then the missionary is but one of thousands of missionary agencies. The professors who taught him in the theological school, the college, and the academy; the pastor under whose care his religious life and his missionary spirit were developed; his godly mother, whose unceasing prayers for him and with him were the real means of quickening his divine life and purpose—all these were missionary instrumentalities, and were indispensable ones. And then we must not forget the rich men who founded and supported the institutions of learning in which he was trained, or the authors who wrote the books by which his mind was nourished, or the ancestors who left their piety as a precious heritage to his mother, or the thousands of men and women and little children who contributed to the Board which sent him out and maintained him. And we must remember, too, that the development of commerce, the progress of science, the policy of empires, home missions—all these have an essential bearing on his work. Thus under the foreign mission idea they are unified. Indeed, this is the only idea under which this can be done. Human history is a jumble until it is seen to be the record of events even the least important of which tends toward the universal establishment of the kingdom of Christ. If, then, beauty is in proportion to the diversity in unity, if a scene be beautiful in proportion to the number of different objects harmonized in it, what can be so beautiful as foreign missions, which subordinate to one divine purpose all human interests?

Second, they are relatively beautiful. This is the more prominent truth in the Scriptures. It is the beauty of fitness, of opportuneness, which both the text cited and the passage of Isaiah whence it is quoted emphasize.