



RANGOON COLLEGE.

to let the first name he uttered be that of a famous champion of freedom. And so, if we would make the Church of Christ what God meant it to be, the great evangelizer of the world, we must begin as early as possible to impart to our children that apostolic zeal for perishing souls which should mark the character of every true and loyal disciple of our Saviour.

But how can this be done? What method should be adopted? I answer that in order to attain this end three things are necessary; and of these the first in order and importance is information. Many Christian men and women are quite indifferent to the work of missions, simply because they are ignorant of the facts concerning them. They may have listened to many discourses upon the subject, but as to the actual work being done, its needs, its urgency, and its practical success, they have still to be informed. And so it is with most of our children.

What they want in order to give them a real and intelligent interest in the work itself is to be instructed in regard to the facts of the case. And this instruction can be given, it seems to me, in various ways. For example, (1) by the circulation of a juvenile missionary paper. I have no great faith in the free distribution of missionary papers in Sunday-schools; papers which children receive for nothing they value accordingly. But if you can get a scholar in each family to become a subscriber to a paper, even if it is only to the amount of five or ten cents a year, you will soon find him taking an interest in it just for that reason.

(2) And then, again, there should be regular missionary addresses or readings to the scholars. In some schools it is customary to read a short

extract (not occupy more than ten minutes) from some missionary paper, or to have a brief address given to the children once a month, on the Sunday preceding the monthly mission collection, and this has been found successful.

(3) It is also a great advantage, whenever possible, to secure for special occasions a returned missionary, or one who is well acquainted with the work, to visit and address the school. This has a very stimulating effect upon all concerned.

The second thing that is necessary to success in cultivating a missionary spirit is wise and faithful teaching and exhortation in the ordinary course of lessons. It is a matter of the first importance that clergymen, superintendents, and teachers should be alive to the value and importance of missions. If those who preach and teach are cold and indifferent, how can we expect our congregations and our scholars to be in earnest?

The trouble with many of our churches and Sunday-schools in the past has been this: that to a very great extent the real aim and object of Christ in founding His Church, as stated by His own lips, namely, the evangelization of the world, has been shamefully disregarded and overlooked. We have been too much occupied hitherto with the business of our own comfort and salvation, and that of our kindred and friends, and have failed to see that the Church exists for the whole world. Instead of distributing the five loaves and two fishes, we have been sitting down at home and consuming them ourselves, to the disgrace of Christianity and the displeasure and grief of our divine Master. We have been praying, "God be merciful unto us, and bless us: and show us the light of his