

course demands regular hours for the study of mission fields, not merely an idle moment, or a sick day when the mind is jaded, but the best hours must be regularly devoted. The country itself first claim his attention ; its location, climate, natural productions, its sources of wealth, and the advantages these offer to Christian enterprise and civilization. Again, the people should be studied, their origin, history, natural disposition, manners, customs, laws—specially in their religious character, the origin and development of their religious systems, as in the case of such nations as India, and even among savage tribes, the movings of the human mind and conscience, their rites and ceremonies, their prejudices, predispositions, susceptibility to Christian influence, their hopes and fears, in short all the relations and surroundings and condition of immortal souls lost to righteousness and dead in sin. There is no part of the history of our race so interesting—so sadly interesting as the record of humanity searching for and striving to propitiate the favor of God. The human soul instinctively yearns after the Deity, this is its very life, whether it is found in the graven image, the heavenly body, or the devouring fire. How it does pain the heart and chill the very life blood to see a *man* bearing the image of his Maker cast himself on the ground before a stock or a stone, press a crucifix to his fevered lips, or, as in the case of the pantheist, cheat himself out of his own God-given personality by a mad delusion ! Yet, such are the scenes presented to the pastor in his study of the mission field.

Again, heathen languages are to be studied, not exhaustively of course, but to an extent, inasmuch as these are often a true index to the people. Some heathen languages are so corrupt and corrupting—so *totally depraved* that missionaries do not permit their children to learn them, nor even to associate with those that use them. What a commentary is this on fallen humanity. Men everywhere have the *idea* of God ; but there are some tribes so low in the scale as to be without a word to express the idea. The history of the growth and adulteration of a language, together with the prostitution of some words, is a most interesting study in any country.

Again, the missionary himself claims the pastor's attention, his failures, difficulties, needs, the converts also in their material and spiritual interests, plans are to be formed and matured ready for presentation whenever occasion demands.

It may be asked here, why should the pastor study all of these one thousand and one things in regard to the foreign field ? Simply, that when the time comes to open his lips, whether in the cottage or the palace, in the infant class in the Sabbath-school, or the college hall, he may be equally qualified to interest and instruct childhood, mature years, old age, and inspire all with an intelligent enthusiasm in the great work of missions to which Jesus gave his life and death.

Finally, the pastor in his study should devote regular hours to the Throne of Grace in the interest of foreign missions. With the previous study, and with his own spirit imbued with a Christ-like solicitude, he is prepared to plead intelligently and effectively. This is not a minor duty, neither must it be relegated to a chance hour, but, like Daniel opening "his windows three times a day towards Jerusalem" and pray-