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

ESSAY ON MISSIONS.

Concluded.

WHAT are the real difficulties that are present in the mind of the young man earnestly inquiring, with respect to the mission: "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" It is well enough—nay, it is wise, to count the cost. In so far as the real difficulties can be ascertained, it serves to diminish the many imaginary hardships which attach to the idea of a life of exile in the South Seas. No difficulties in the way of performing a good work are so formidable as those which are imaginary. Yet there are real hardships, which, when viewed in the spirit of fear, do often deter us from actively engaging in the noble enterprise. But when we contemplate hardships of any kind with a disposition to know the worst, rather than to dread the worst, they do not appear to be so insurmountable. Let the young man who earnestly desires to know his duty, and who is truly willing to perform it, take familiarizing views, which may, perhaps, prove "dissolving views", of those considerations of hardship which rise up before the mind with all the sternness of reality, accompanied, too often, by the terrors of the imagination, until they effectually turn many from noble resolves,—and he may here find applicable, in a good sense, the well known principle that familiarity breeds contempt." Why should we not take up the language of other noble hearts, and say: What has been done, can be done again—what has been performed by others, may be accomplished by us? The illustrious Harriet Newell could say, in the prospect

of difficulties of the most overpowering nature to one in her circumstances, "What woman has done, woman can do again"; and her devoted young heart of hearts was thus sustained by heroic resolution amid hardships which actually did terminate her career almost before it commenced. And when we have had the many better tokens which the history of our mission affords of what women can do, it ill becomes men to shrink from the difficulties which surround our new mission, but which have proved, by the blessing of God, to be not insuperable.

If we regard the distance to the scene of our missionary operations as one of the difficulties in the way of obtaining laborers, let us account it as one of the least. Who will not go as far to get gold, when once possessed with the love of mammon? And what false religion will not compass sea and land to make one proselyte? Shall Christians suffer to be put to shame by money lovers, and by the teachers of error?

"Shall we whose souls are lighted
With wisdom from on high—
Shall we to men benighted
The lamp of life deny?"

Shall distance from home and friends cast a gloom over the prospects of our mission, and clothe it with a forbidding aspect, when, in other scenes,

"'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view?"

Mr. Geddie's experience, even on remote Aneiteum, leads him to exclaim: "It seems as if modern ingenuity were about to annihilate time and space." If such is beginning to be realized by our missionaries, what may they not hope for on behalf of those dark