

## THE MOTIVE TO MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE.

In Mission enterprise, as in any other, there may be many motives clustering around the main one, and there may be so much on the surface that even the toiler himself may be unconscious of the leading one. These secondary motives may have their origin in the main one or they may arise out of the character or training of the individual. Some of them, or indeed all of them, when subordinated to the great purpose may be legitimate and helpful. I think that many persons are largely influenced by a religious *esprit de corps*—a wish to see Christianity spread as they would desire to see the borders of their country extend. Others may be dominated by a denominational spirit—believing that their tenets contain the germ of Gospel truth. We know that this spirit is often worked to swell the funds of all our societies. The romance of missions, as it is called, has no doubt had a great deal to do in deciding fearful hearts and wavering minds. And who will not say that a love of adventure, a thirst for exploration, for knowledge of races or languages, has not played its part in forwarding this mighty enterprise? Who can read the journals of the immortal Livingstone without feeling that this trait, sanctified and ennobled by love to God and men, bore him on through many a dreary day and over many a weary mile? But we must never forget that these motives are very secondary in their character after all, and that many of them will apply to the one sent and not to the sender. There is another class of questions which can only come very indirectly under our heading and yet have a vast influence in determining the final result.

1. Many Christian people are greatly shocked at the idea that a heathen dying without the knowledge of God and His salvation is lost. They have a hazy and indistinct idea that because God will not condemn the heathen for rejecting the Gospel neither will He punish them to the same extent, nor on the same grounds as the wilful rejectors of the Gospel, therefore He will in some way provide for their *salvation*. God is under an infinite obligation to punish sin. There is no sin apart from a moral agent and no punishment except of a being. If the heathen has sinned, that sin must be removed or the heathen will be punished—will be lost.

2. Many good Christian people, and missionaries too, *hope* that,