

Mr. F — assuredly cried for his prodigal son now wandering from place to place in the far West, who not only refuses to come home, but will not even write where he is or what he is doing.

Miss G— for the lover of many years whom she felt obliged to reject because of his bad habits; a brilliant fellow who promised to reform over and over, yet always failed to keep his word.

Mrs. H— for her youngest daughter, now fascinated by the glitter and whirl of fashionable life, who seemed at one time on the point of deciding for Christ, but now so cold and thoughtless about all religious duties.

So the incense of prayer arose from every side. Teachers cried to God for scholars; husbands for wives; boys for chums; girls for schoolmates; and Christian employees for worldly employers. O what pleading was there! As the communicants lifted their faces there were still traces of the struggle upon their earnest tear stained faces; but what gracious answers will be recorded in heaven for the prayers that ascended from that holy communion table! *H. H. H. in New York Evangelist,*

AN EARNEST PLEA.

"Pray for us!" is the cry of all missionaries who are facing heathenism. So uniform is this request that it may seem to have lost its force. Mr. Winchester, of North China, gives some of the reasons why this request should be heeded: "May I be permitted to bring this matter of prayer—humble supplication from honest, fervent hearts on behalf of the workers abroad—before the churches at home? In the midst of a Sabbathless, idolatrous, superstitious people, is it any marvel if the ethereal edge of Christian life should lose its temper and keenness when deprived of all the aids and incentives of faith, fervency, and courage which the communion and intercourse of saints in the home-lands afford? There is a popular misconception, widely spread, which regards the missionary as one who, as well by his isolation as by his self renunciation, is far removed from the temptations which commonly beset the pathway of the ordinary Christian at home. If he is, it is only to be subjected to others at least equally strong and perhaps more deceptive. The great Temptation was in the depths of the wilderness. There are peculiar trials to which the foreign missionary is exposed, which surely call for the earnest petition of our brethren at home. I believe, on the other hand, that the average missionary is

above the average in that he would be the joyful testimony that Jesus is to them verily as the water in a dry place, and as the shade under the great rock in a weary land." Workers truly need yours prayers." (*The Missionary Herald*)

A HINDOOS TESTIMONY TO MISSIONS.

BABU KESHUB CHUNDER SEN, not a Christian, but a Hindoo reformer, in a lecture, said:—

"It is not the British army, I say again, that deserves any credit for holding India. If unto any army appertains the honour of holding India for England, that army is the army of Christian missionaries, headed by their invincible Captain, Jesus Christ. Their devotion, their self-abnegation, their philanthropy, their love of God, their attachment and allegiance to the truth—all these have found, and will continue to find, a deep place in the gratitude of our countrymen. Therefore, it is needless, perfectly superfluous, for me to bestow any eulogium upon such tried friends and benefactors of our country. They have brought unto us Christ. They have given us the high code of Christian ethics, and their teachings and examples have secretly influenced and won thousands of non-Christian Hindoos. Let England know that—thanks to the noble band of Christ's ambassadors sent by her—she has already succeeded in planting His banners in the heart of the nation. God's blessing and India's gratitude will, therefore, ever belong to such men as these—men of character, of truth—men who in many instances, have been found ready to sacrifice even their lives for the sake of hearing witness unto the truth."

Not half enough can ever be said of the importance of every one's giving something to the cause of Christ. The smallest child can save part of its pennies as soon as it can lip the name of Jesus. And, by the way, if children were taught to give a portion of their little store, we would not have so many grown-up shirkers in the church. It is my belief that every Christian, who is thoroughly in earnest, cannot fail to give of his earnings to Him who created all things. Let us think of all this, fellow Christians, and examine ourselves. Are we working in the cause of Christ, or are we casting stumbling blocks in the way of others? If the latter, the quicker we are out of the Church the better for it and for ourselves.—*Christian Observer.*