

the papal, heathen and Mohammedan population abroad for ample usefulness if consecrated to God's work. The nations of the Orient are awakening to the superiority of Occidental civilization. They are beginning to demand the introduction of the improvements and inventions of the most Christian peoples, and consequently all knowledge gained in our schools can be utilized in connection with mission work abroad. Dr. Hamlin, when in Turkey, was known as the man of a hundred trades, and it is surprising how his versatile genius and varied knowledge found scope for exercise.

9. Teachers are in great demand, and of all kinds, and everywhere. Japan offers to support them while learning the language if they will come and aid in the work of education. Africa needs nothing more to-day than Christian schools to train up a new generation from her millions of little children. The colleges and universities of Japan and India offer chairs to well-furnished teachers.

10. The Y. M. C. A. is spreading all over the world. There are now formed upwards of 4,000 associations, and of these 1,000 are in papal lands, and nearly 300 in Mohammedan and heathen countries. There are 21 in India and Ceylon, 12 in Turkey, 6 in Syria, 12 in Africa, 5 in China, 7 in Persia and 200 in Japan. There are going to be openings in every quarter for the young men who have a fitness for secretaries and evangelists in connection with these associations. The same conditions seem likely to prevail within twenty-five years in China, India, Japan, Korea, Africa, as in New York city, for aggressive Christian work.

11. There are plenty of unoccupied fields. Districts 500 miles square in Africa, China, etc., without one missionary. Some countries, like Arabia and Thibet, have yet to be entered. Languages differ in difficulty of acquisition. The Chinese is probably the most difficult on the whole to master; the languages of Southern Europe the easiest. Missionaries have a legal permit to enter most countries, but in some cases the law is not adequate protection, not being enforced or restraining the popular prejudices. Yet in China, Japan, India, Persia, Turkey, Syria, Africa, the life of a prudent missionary is ordinarily safe.

12. The list of useful books for candidates for the mission field is very large. See the bibliography of the recent conference in London, which is the most complete list of missionary library ever published. But the reading ought largely to be determined by the field chosen. One should have a general idea of the whole field and the history of missions, and then study the particular field where his labor is likely to be cast. For example, if one is likely to go to Turkey, such volumes as Dr. Goodell's "Forty Years in the Turkish Empire" and Dr. Hamlin's "Among the

Turks" are invaluable. One would hardly go to Southern Africa without reading Livingstone and Moffat; or to China without reading S. Wells Williams and Doolittle. R. N. Cust has written most valuable works on philology, etc.; Dr. George Smith on the "History of Missions" and the biography of eminent men like Duff and Wilson and Carey.

13. As to fields. Every part of India has its attractions and obstacles. The southern part has been most fruitful in missionary labor; but the northern has probably the strongest elements of popular character, and when thoroughly evangelized, will exercise more power in the Christian church. We question very much whether it be best to select fields according to the comparative attractions and promise. We grow more and more into the unalterable conviction that *comparative destination* is the only law of choice. Fields that we regard most hopeful God may see to be most hopeless and contrariwise. Mary Lyons used to say to her pupils: "If you would serve God most successfully be prepared to go where no one else will." That deserves to be engraved as the motto of a consecrated life. The most heroic missionaries have been the men and women who went to those most hopelessly lost to God without the Gospel.

14. The expenses of a married couple are generally less than those of two separate parties, abroad as at home. We believe that the question whether one should go married or single must be settled in each individual case. There is certainly room for thousands of single women; and as for men, it depends largely on the field and the character of the work. If the work be largely itinerant, a wife and family would be an incumbrance; if the condition of society is very unsettled, as it was in the South Sea Islands fifty years ago, a man would best go single. But when a missionary settles down to a local work, among essentially the same people, the family relation is a vast help, not to him only, but to his work, as showing what Christianity can do for the household.

A. T. P.

Monster projects are now maturing to bring the whole world into neighborhood. The public mind is startled to hear of the practical annihilation of all barriers to national communication.

Witness the new survey now in progress to lay out a route for a railway through Alaska, across Behring Strait by a colossal bridge fifty miles long, divided in twain at the Diomed Islands, and so southwest through Siberia, the Chinese Empire, Indian Arabia, the Isthmus of Suez, the Moroc-