

and deal so largely in manual labour. Where it is unnecessary, it may be wrong; but when it is indispensable to secure health, comfort, and the success of the mission—God's glory and the salvation of souls are suspended on these conditions—it becomes as sacred an occupation to manipulate wood and stone as to translate the Scriptures and preach the Word; and the missionary is as certainly serving God and benefiting the heathen when he doffs his coat and lays to his hands, as when he bends his knees in prayer, and opens his lips in supplication. In this way the end sanctifies the means, the altar sanctifies the gift. The missionary, like Paul, must be able to say, "These hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me."

When viewed in this light, and undertaken in this spirit, manual labour is not necessarily inconsistent with high attainments in religion; it is no more injurious to a missionary than to any other man. If a missionary feels that in these secularities he is obeying the will of God, and performing a required and an acceptable duty, he will at the same time feel, that in so doing, the most menial labour is invested with dignity and the most common and secular pursuits are invested with a character of sacredness.

It must ever be borne in mind, however, that there is no romance in mission work; it is a stern, hard, dry reality. It is the solving of one of the most difficult of social problems under the most unfavourable conditions. Those who enter the work under the influence of any romantic feelings or ideas, but who do not recognise its moral grandeur, will soon lose heart and abandon their position. They will become disgusted with the difficult and self-denying labours, the menial toils, and the humble drudgeries of mission life, in which they can see nothing dignified, nothing grand, nothing sacred; and they will leave the field, it may be soured and disappointed. You will resist the very first motions of such a temptation, you will stand firm to your post to the very last. Nothing is more injurious to a mission or more disheartening to its supporters, than when a missionary, led to the work by the false glare of a romantic zeal, trembles whenever he comes face to face with the reality, turns his back on these newly-discovered difficulties, and betakes himself to an ignominious flight. It is only those who are sustained by a sense of duty, and who can in some measure recognise the scriptural view of the enterprise, who will persevere under all the difficulties and discouragements of the undertaking, and in this warfare endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

In connection with secular matters and

manual labours, there are two extremes to be avoided. On the one hand, there may be a shrinking from these labours, and a living in such a state that health suffers, serious inconveniences are felt, and the work of the mission is retarded. On the other hand, the secular may overlay the spiritual, and the means may occupy more attention than the end. But on this point no specific rules can be laid down; every missionary must judge for himself; and for this end he must pray earnestly for that wisdom that cometh from above—that wisdom that is profitable to direct.

4. You will take advantage of the suggestions, the counsels, and the experience of the *other members of the mission*, especially of those who have been in the mission before you. That the younger should submit to the elder, is the injunction of Scriptures, and all experience corroborates the wisdom of obeying this precept. This holds true everywhere, but specially where the conditions of life and labour are so new and so different from what they are elsewhere. But it is an injunction to which the youthful mind is not always ready to accede. It is often irksome in the extreme for the zeal and ardour, the earnestness and impetuosity, of youth to be cooled and checked, to be reined up and arrested, by the timidity, the caution, and the conservatism of advancing years. It is so everywhere, but it is especially so in the mission-field, where there is generally found among the younger missionaries more than the average amount of impetuous ardour and glowing zeal, and hence of impatience under restraint; and on the part of the elder missionaries, from their experience of the dangers and difficulties of the work, there is more than an average amount of caution and carefulness in all their proceedings, and thus there is laid a greater restraint on this youthful impetuosity.

Young missionaries are ready to think that every year, every month, every day, is lost in which they are not engaged in directly evangelistic work. Elder missionaries know that success is not to be obtained by forcing matters, but by patiently waiting for opportunities, and then promptly seizing them and carefully improving them when they occur. It is in general only by patiently waiting that the favourable opportunity can be secured.

While always honestly and conscientiously exercising your own judgment in everything affecting yourself, or affecting the mission, you will find it to be your interest, as much as your duty, not only to yield a ready obedience to the decisions of the majority, which every missionary is bound to do, but to pay a marked deference to the opinions and suggestions of your seniors in the mission. You may be right, and they