

on earth, the field from which he reaps his richest crops of human souls. How needful, then, ought we all to pray, "O Lord, help these thine own human creatures, and deliver them from the fiendish power of him who hates both Thee and them."

But some persons have thoughtlessly used the argument, if argument it may be called, that "the cause is the Lord's, and when His good time comes, He will effect the conversion of the heathen in any way He pleases." These advocates of this idea forget that the usual way that God works His works on earth is by means. True it certainly is, that He could crush heathenism throughout the world in an instant of time, by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, if He so chose to do; but this we know He has not done in such large and overwhelming measure upon all men, nor have we any promise of His that He will ever do the work in this way. The leaven of the Gospel has already been put by Him, through the Saviour, into the dry meal of the world, and it has done good work in leavening such portions of the world as have come in contact with it; but to the woman—(Matt. 13: 33) the Church of God in the world,—has been entrusted by Him the high and exalted honour and privilege of carrying it to those parts of the world not yet reached by the Gospel, and planting the standard of the saving truth of Jesus there. This is the common mode by which the Almighty proceeds, and we have no right to find fault with it, but rather thankfully act in conformity with His will. Human agents He raises up and employs thus to do His will, and we, as christians, are called upon by Him to aid these in their work to the utmost of our power, as He has, in the richness of His providence and grace, blessed ourselves. The heart of every christian man and woman rejoices most in this, to perceive the name of the Lord hallowed and adored in the world, and His kingdom flourishing here. Now this cannot be seen unless those individuals, into whose hearts God has put grace, and called into His public service in distant lands, exert themselves manfully in His cause, and this the generality of them are not able to do, however willing they may be, unless they are supported temporally by their fellow-christians.

The heathen field is a hard and difficult one to cultivate, and how much need, therefore, have those devoted individuals who set themselves to this task, of all the assistance and encouragement we can possibly give them. The cry from heathen lands to them is not generally "Come over and help us," but, in many cases, the very opposite. They have often to contend against much opposition and contradiction,—often to endure much hardship,—often is their life in danger,—and many of them have sealed the truth of their devotion to Jesus and His cause, with their blood. No motive, therefore, can we reasonably imagine these men of God can have, in going to heathen lands with the gospel, than true love to God, and the everlasting welfare of the perishing but immortal souls of their fellow men. For this they labour and pray; for this they bid adieu to comfort and convenience—to relations and friends—to their native country and their homes, and go forth with nothing but the protecting hand of their Heavenly Father over them, to win souls to Christ. What need of prudence and watchfulness and circumspection have they in their zeal, in working the works of God, when far away among a heathen people, many of whom are prejudiced against them and the cause which they are upholding? Did those devoted missionaries not fully and finally believe in the force and power of the gospel which they are carrying along with them—that it is an instrument put into their hands by God Himself, perfectly and completely competent to crush heathenism to the dust, and elevate its blind and superstitious worshippers to the dignity of true men in Christ Jesus—not one of them would be found to go to these distant lands and act as they do. But they have already experienced the power of the gospel upon themselves, and they therefore know and believe what it can and will do upon others with whom it comes