

to the feelings of their friends. Here, then, are trials, which require them to know and to feel the depth of the Saviour's love—to lay hold on the promises with a firm and unflinching grasp—to feel their duty to the Saviour, in all its just force and import—to their duty to souls—and the worth of the immortal soul. These are trials, which the missionary is called upon to meet at the very threshold of his work.

2 The missionary should be prepared, as described above, because, when his heart is sore and desponding under trials, toils, privations, little apparent success, the gross wickedness of the heathen, the little he can do to elevate them &c., he has no friend to whom he may go and unburden his soul, and from whom he may receive sympathy, comfort, and encouragement. In this way those who labour at home, have their hands strengthened and their hearts encouraged in their labours. To be thus comforted, strengthened, and encouraged, is Scriptural. Of this the apostle Paul frequently makes mention; Christians are enjoined, thus to comfort and assist each other; but especially those "who labour in word and doctrine."—From those sources of consolation, encouragement, and strength he is separated. Hence, he requires a peculiar fitness to qualify him for this work. In such circumstances, if he is not properly prepared for this situation, he must be most miserable. Under such a load, his physical and mental energies must sink; his zeal and activity must flag; and thus, he must utterly fail to accomplish that for which he has been sent thither.

Finally, the character of missionary life, is such, as to tend largely to promote the spiritual growth of the individual, who is rightly qualified for it. In various ways it exercises this influence over the person engaged in this noble and praise worthy calling.

1 The missionary, in his trials, distresses, &c.—destitute of all earthly friends to whom he may unburden his soul and from whom he may receive heart-cheering sympathy and consolation—will fly to God—make known to Him all his wants and sorrows—and seek from Him all that after which his soul longs. Seeking, he will find God to be all that He has promised to be to those who seek Him—and will thus find reason to rejoice in Him, as "a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Thus, there will be awakened in his bosom, yearnings after near communion with God—an earnestness and familiarity in seeking and going to Him, at all times. Thus, he will realize, in his happy experience, that

"He sympathizes with our grief,
And to the sufferer sends relief"

These are sources of sweet comfort and joy of which the world, and even, the lukewarm Christian knows nothing.

2 No human arm to protect him from the dangers, peculiar to his situation, he will adopt the language of the Psalmist in the 18th