

stand inscribed on the marble, were praying in the shelter of a hay-stack, during a thunder storm, which had driven them from the neighboring maple grove where they were to meet. Here these young men, impressed by the momentous interests at stake, and by the Divine command, personally dedicated themselves to the work of Foreign Missions, asking God's blessing and guidance on the great cause to which they had given their hearts.

One of them—Byram Green, who identified the spot—has written his recollections of that memorable scene:—"The afternoon," says he, "was oppressively warm, which probably detained all those from the East College, that usually attended, and came from the brethren of the West. We then went to the grove, expecting to hold our prayer-meeting there; but a dark cloud was rising in the west, and it soon began to thunder and lighten, and we left the grove and went under the hay stack, to protect us from the approaching storm, which was soon realized. The subject of conversation under the stack, before and during the shower, was the moral darkness of Asia. Mills proposed to send the Gospel to that dark and heathen land, and said *we could do it if we would*. We were all agreed, and delighted with the idea, except Loomis, who considered that it was premature; that if missionaries should be sent to Asia, they would be murdered; that Christian armies must subdue the country before the Gospel could be sent to the Turks and Arabs." The discussion went on, till at length Mills exclaimed, "Come, let us make it a subject of prayer, under the hay-stack, while the clouds are going and the clear sky is appearing."

At this time, when a boy, had heard his excellent mother, like Hannah of old say, "I have consecrated this child to the service of the Lord as a missionary;" and from the time of his conversion in A. D. 1802, his thoughts were turned toward missionary work, and his promotion of piety among his fellow countrymen. Here then is the fountain-head of a mighty stream flowing into, and contributing to that great ocean—the knowledge of the Lord—the healing waters, we know, shall one day cover the whole earth!

### acknowledging God in Making our Wills.

Several years ago a respectable man came to us soliciting aid to make his will. He was a leading member in a Christian congregation, and possessed of a considerable amount of property, accumulated through patient toil, we fully expected that

he would, with a grateful heart, remember liberally the cause of our blessed Saviour in the final distribution of that property. Great, therefore, was our astonishment to find that he concluded to leave the whole of his real and personal estate to various relatives, some of whom stood not in the least need of it, and were more likely to be injured than benefited by it, while the cause of Jesus Christ, in which he professed to feel an interest, was altogether forgotten. After pointing out to him how unseemly and ungrateful it would be for him to act towards God as he purposed to do, we assured him that we could have no part in doing what appeared to be a most unworthy act for a Christian, namely, to draw up a solemn testamentary document which referred to his own decease, made a final disposition of all his property, and completely ignored God and his cause. He retired, saying that the matter had not appeared to him in that light before, but that he would give it serious consideration. On mentioning this incident to a very worthy and generous elder of the Canada Presbyterian Church, he declared that in his experience with Christian men, few things had more staggered his faith in the sincerity of their profession than the fact that so many of them die without the slightest recognition of God, or remembrance of his cause in their last will and testament.

Our own experience for years past has thoroughly convinced us that Christian men, especially those who are in affluent circumstances, need very much to have their consciences enlightened on this subject. There are many men of wealth within the pale of our Church, whose honest and persevering industry has been crowned with eminent success. We sincerely trust that these will not, in the final disposition of their property, act an unworthy part towards that merciful God who has so richly blessed the labour of their hand, and poured his gifts so abundantly into their lap. Should they view the matter aright, as truly enlightened Christians whose religious affections are properly educated will do, we feel fully persuaded that each one of them will insert a clause in his will consecrating a liberal portion of his substance for the maintenance and spread of pure religion in the land.

It sometimes occurs that Christian men of large means withhold now from God's cause what it greatly needs, and what they could easily give, intending at the close of their life to make a liberal donation towards its support. This is very much to be deprecated; for it has often happened that men who flattered themselves that they were prepared to do great things for religion and education in the final disposal of their property, became, by long withholding, so