

interested in our Foreign Mission, and we long to hear of its success, and therefore we are ready to be impatient and see discouragements in the delay; but there is another unspeakably more interested in this mission than we can be. Our poor fellow-sinners in the dark Islands are not excluded from the class Jesus came to save, and for whom He died; and over every degraded form, in the lowest dens of vice and misery, that is found raising his eyes to the Cross, and pleading for mercy, He rejoiceth; for then He beholds the travail of His soul. When entering on this work, we knew that success must wholly depend on the good pleasure of His will, and there we must still be content to leave the result. In obedience to His own command, we resolved on entering this mission; but it was as servants we did so, recognizing our duty to obey and labour, but not to dictate to Him, nor to assign the terms which we should regard as the just recompense of our efforts. We are ever liable to fall into this error. As servants, we are responsible only for the means we use, and the spirit and the energy with which we use them. The result is not ours. Obedience will secure the reward promised, and the blessing will be ours, whether the result in the mission field be glorious triumphs or apparent failure. But, in this case, failure can only be a delay, in seeing the fruits for which we have laboured. Ultimate success is as certain as our confidence in the truth of the promise given by our Lord, when He enjoined missionary effort, and therefore are we sure that we shall reap if we faint not. "He that believeth shall not make haste." Believing, we can be patient and wait, assured that the arm of the Lord shall be revealed, and that we shall in the end see His salvation. We were behind other Churches in engaging in this work, and we have their experience to sustain our confidence. In many cases, the result was discouraging,—for a time, long and trying indeed to the patience of the frail agents,—but that result never proved a failure. For twelve dark and lonely years, the first missionaries of the London Society laboured in the South Seas, so entirely, as they thought, in vain, that these devoted men, in despair, resolved to abandon the field, and did so. Two of their number, however, being obliged to return on some business, were gladdened to see what proved their conclusion to be wrong. They heard the voice of prayer and the earnest pleading for mercy. The desponding missionaries returned to find the showers descending, and the desert becoming a fruitful field. For many years the efforts of the Apostolic Moffat, in Africa, resulted in apparently exciting the hatred of those for whom he endured every hardship. They scoffed at his teaching, returned his kindness with the basest ingratitude, and again and again plotted his death. He, too, began to despond. But when about to abandon the mission, and during a temporary absence, the power was revealed for which he so earnestly and so long prayed, but, as he feared, in vain, and on his return he found that a glorious work was begun,—was indeed accomplished. Anxious and weeping souls crowded the sanctuary, and the scoffing was changed to the earnest cry, "What shall we do to be saved?" The venerable Moffat still lives to proclaim the faithfulness of the God of missions. The history of the world is, in a great measure, a record of disappointed hopes and schemes which failed, but never, in the history of man, did there fail of reward, the efforts to raise the fallen and save the perishing. To labour for this object is to be fellow-workers with God, and secures for its reward a joint-heirship with God's beloved Son. To know this is surely enough, and more than sufficient, to meet and dispel every discouragement. Your Committee would confidently hope that the painful intelligence from our mission field, instead of leading to despondency, may serve to stir up to more earnest efforts and more earnest prayer.

Do we regret the expenditure for which some may say we have had no return? God forbid. What have we expended? A few mites of the abundance placed by God in our hands, and all of which belongs to Him. At the hour of death, we may regret things for which time and money were spent, but what we gave for mission work will not be of the number of these. But, can we say that we have had no return? Is it nothing that the stigma has been removed which rested upon us, as a missionaryless Church? Is it nothing that we can speak of our missionary and of the trials he has endured? And, when we cannot speak of and rejoice in the triumphs of success, is it nothing to speak of efforts made and means expended in obedience to the command of Christ? And while we lament that these efforts have not been crowned with the results we fondly hoped for, would we exchange these results for the position we occupied when we expended nothing, and risked nothing, in the mission field? The Church which can say "we are not interested in mission work, we invest nothing there, and we have no risk," makes a painful admission. That admission means ingratitude, disobedience, a selfish and worldly spirit, and it erects a barrier between the Church and Christ. The Foreign Mission is not of man—Christ Himself established that mission. It was His