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MISSIONARY MEMORABILIA.

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As we take a text from which to preach a sermon, so we take a few good thoughts from master missionaries in order to draw out the lessons which they suggest. No one is so wise that he does not speak more wisely than he knows. And in these texts, gathered from several devoted workers for Christ, we shall no doubt find more than their authors ever intended; but we may find helpful suggestion and wholesome instruction, and on this we are especially intent.

Mr. Swan, a pastor in Birmingham, who knew William Carey intimately, said of him, in an address after his decease: "If he had any defect in his character, I should say that it was that he was too easy. He once said to me, 'Brother Swan, I am not fitted for discipline; I never could say no. *I began to preach at Moulton because I could not say no; I went to Leicester because I could not say no; I became a missionary because I could not say no.*'"

Would that a multitude of disciples might be found with this infirmity of being unable to say "no" to the great commission! The power of weakness is often more serviceable in the kingdom of God than the power of strength, and man's *cannot* more useful to the Lord than his *own*. Of God this great thing is written, that He "cannot lie." What a security for our faith is found in this omnipotent inability. Carlyle, tracing the etymology of the word "king" through the German "könig" back to its root, concludes that the king is simply "the man *who can*"—the one who, being the strongest of his tribe or nation, has seized the reins of power and constituted might the synonym of right. But He to whom belongs the title of "King of kings" once said to a servant of His: "My strength is made perfect in weakness." His worthiness to be crowned King of saints lay quite as much in His divine inability as in His divine ability. He could not say "no" to His Father's will. "I have power to lay down My life, and I have power to take it again," He said, thus claiming for