

when she comforted Naaman, and conveyed to him the knowledge of the one true God. Is that not our theme to-day? How to make such missionaries? I believe, sir, that missions must culminate in children as the very highest realm in our education of them. Why is it we are compelled to come here and make the complaints we have heard day after day, that our people are lacking not only in missionary effort, but in missionary interest? It is not for lack of interest, but simply because they have not been taught. Begin with the children in the Sunday-school, teach them that they are indeed Christ's soldiers, and that they are to live to God and with one impulse to which the child's heart most readily responds, to love, and then that becomes reduced to form, a settled principle that holds the child steadily to the doing of the practical work which God points out for it to do.

"OLD PROVIDENCE."

YEARs ago there lived in London a poor man who was dependent for his support, and that of his wife and son, upon the kindness of the charitable. His constant practice of acknowledging the hand of Providence whenever he received assistance, even before he thanked his benefactor, led his neighbors to call him "Old Providence." When sometimes his wife told him they were in want of some articles in the house, his reply was "Providence will provide." If this apparent indifference provoked her, he would say, "My dear, were we ever deserted by Providence?"

One day he had no bread, and he had been at the houses of several friends to procure some, but in vain; it appeared as if the heart of every one was shut against him; but his unshaken confidence did not forsake him. He was returning home, and happened to pass by some boys at play. As soon as they saw him, one said to another, "Let us buy a loaf of bread and give it to the old man, and he will say it is from Providence."

A similar circumstance occurred, at another time, when his wife had expressed a wish for a piece of fresh meat. Some boys who were near a butcher's shop, seeing him at a distance, agreed among themselves to buy him a leg of mutton. They immediately went into the shop and told the butcher to weigh one, for Old Providence was coming. On their presenting him with it, and hearing him, in his usual manner, acknowledge the goodness of God, they gave a shout and left him. The butcher, who was a religious character, hearing the old man's language, called him in, inquired of him who he was, and how he lived; and being satisfied with his answers, he told him that whenever he wanted a piece of meat he should be welcome to it.

One day a gentleman who had been very kind to him, hearing he was at the door, ordered his servant to call him in. On his being introduced, he said to him:

"Did not you once tell me you had a son, old man?"

"Yes, sir," he replied.

"Of what age is he?"

"About seventeen, sir."

"What do you mean to do with him?"

"I mean to make a parson of him, sir."

"A parson! how will you, who are so poor, be able to do that?"

"Providence will provide, sir."

"I have no patience with your 'Providence,'" said the gentleman, "bring your son to me."

"Sir, I cannot, for he is so badly clothed that he is not fit to appear in public."

The gentleman pulled out his purse and gave him five guineas, desiring him to get his son some clothes, and then to bring him to him, which he accordingly did. When the young man was introduced to the gentleman, he was asked if he knew that in order to become a clergyman he must be acquainted with the Greek and Latin languages. He replied in the affirmative, that his father had informed him so, and that he had been for some time applying himself to the study of them under the tuition of his father. The gentleman, in astonishment, turned to the old man and asked who he was—adding that he had many times suspected that he was not altogether what he appeared to be. The gentleman, being a man of learning, examined the youth, and finding him well versed in the classics, and possessed of superior talents, he gave the father fifty guineas, desiring that he would procure for his son such other articles as he wanted; and, this done, he furnished him with a letter of recommendation to one of the heads of Christ's College, whither he sent him. While he continued there, he applied closely to his studies, acquired the knowledge of those branches in which he had been deficient, and, in process of time, became a minister of the Gospel. The gentleman, not contented with thus providing for the son, employed his attorney in endeavoring to recover the old man's lost property; and eventually succeeded, so that he experienced in his latter days the truth of his maxim, "To trust in Providence for both spiritual and temporal blessings is the surest way of being happy here and hereafter."

"Though troubles assail, and dangers affright,
Though friends should all fail, and foes all unite:
Yet one thing secures us, whatever betide,
The promise assures, 'The Lord will provide.'"

"The birds without barn, or storehouse, are fed,
From them let us learn to trust for our bread:
His saints, what is fitting, shall ne'er be denied.
So long as 'tis written, 'The Lord will provide.'"
Christian Witness.

In a room in Fulton street, New York, there has been a gathering of business men for prayer every day since 1857.