

they will be glad to have them come to their homes when equal to making the effort. Don't ask them during that first call if they are going back and when? Neither about their special work, as every one knows to talk about what is deeply interesting to one is to stir up the feelings, and *that*, when a person is weak and tired and nervous, is always very exhausting. After the strength returns, short talks and short receptions might be indulged in.

Suppose one of our homeladies is reduced by illness or over-work to a nervous, weak state of health. What do the doctor and friends generally recommend? Why, by all means since she cannot do regular work any longer without a change, pack her up and send her off on a six months tour at public speaking in all the churches near and far, and let her tell of the work she has been doing during the last five years. We would think it folly and waste of time to let her go to the seaside or elsewhere for a quiet rest, therefore let her do public work. There is rest in change *always*, is there not? Do we talk and act so for our home invalids? Then are we observing the Golden Rule when we require six months' work from our returned ladies? And, we call for *too much work* from these ladies when in their various fields of labour, as well as when at home. We should not make demands on their time and strength as we often do for letters and reports of work, etc. If we studied the papers, the Missionary Review of the World, and the Bible as we ought to we would find enough to enthuse us with true zeal and make us able to do our part in the great vineyard, without unduly taxing those, who amid disadvantages which we know nothing of, toil from day to day, from year to year, in season and out of season in all kinds of climate. 'Tis true our ladies in Japan go to the mountains to spend their holidays, but mountain air there is hotter than our hottest days in these provinces. Under the depressing influences of heathenism, they sow the precious seed of divine truth, which when received into man's heart, results in the growth of Christian character whose fruit is unto righteousness and life eternal. Nothing would make them undertake such toil were it not for the command, and for the promise of the ever abiding presence of the Master, and for the love that constrains them to do, or die it may be, that His name may be glorified in all the earth.

When Christ came to set up his kingdom, He came to a people who had been taught for ages to worship the true and living God, the prophets had foretold His coming, angels heralded it, and yet

how slow they were to believe! But what of those who know nothing of these great truths, who do not understand our language and who generally despise or hate the white person? It takes years sometimes to break down prejudices, to overcome hindrances and to win affections, but by the grace of God it is being done, and it will continue to be done until the kingdoms of this world shall have become the kingdoms of our Christ. So let us be faithful, let us be filled with the spirit of wisdom and grace, let us hold up the hands of those who go, let us pray that more may be willing to go, until all the unsaved world shall lay down the weapons of its warfare, and hail Him who is the everlasting Lord, the Prince of Peace! And to this end let us give our returned Missionaries a fair chance, let us deal with them as we do with our own loved, tired ones at home,—let them rest and do what they please—and I am sure they will repay us a hundred fold by doing better work for God when they go back. I move we try the experiment, especially in the case of those who have been ill, and I would strongly recommend it for all. But there are two places where we would always like to see them when they feel equal to it. These are the Annual Branch Meetings and the meeting of the General Board. At these they come in touch with a large number of the elect ladies of the church, and it will do them good to feel the pulse of the Missionary Society. They will gain a knowledge of its health and strength, and the society in its turn, will find out much in a quiet way of the working of the church abroad; thus a mutual benefit will be received. I do not mean that they go to these places as public speakers, unless by their own desire, and even then, good, sound judgement should rule in this matter, and prevent the possibility of over-taxing.

A missionary in Japan says: "We have a Sunday school for the children, and what they learn of Jesus helps them to shine as little candles in their own homes. One day a man came from a distance to inquire about Christ. He said that a boy had returned from school and told him a little, but he wanted more. He was a strong Buddhist, but the boy had said something which he could not understand. The truth was explained to him, and he asked many questions. At length he said: 'This must be true. The priests are deceiving us.'"

—Be useful where thou livest, that they may
Both want and wish thy pleasing presence still.
Find out men's wants and will,
And meet them there. All worldly joys countless
Than the one joy of doing kindnesses.

—George Herbert.