

reading the lives of other missionaries who had gone before them. It was the pondering over of the first question in the Shorter Catechism that was the initiatory step in Lady Glenorchy's conversion, and in that noble life of Christian usefulness which she afterwards led. Dr. Chalmers has well shewn, in one of his lectures, (the 91 on the Romans), that when God requires us to forgive and love even our enemies, he does not intend us, by doing so, to contravene any part of our mental or moral constitution. Christ's injunction is: "If he repent forgive him;" the repentance is to precede the forgiveness, which removes all the difficulty to a Christian spirit. We are to love our enemies, but it is not with a love of complacency or delight, as we love our friends, but simply with a love of benevolence or pity, and the thought of the retribution that awaits them, if fully realized in our minds, will produce this pity; so that loving them in this way will be natural and easy. So in influencing young people to become missionaries, there is no need of contravening any part of their mental or moral constitution, or of leading them to engage in a work for which they would have no heart. If the right influences are brought to bear upon them, these will give them heart, love, and life for the work. Let christian life, ministerial character, and missionary labours be presented fully and forcibly before them, as bearing on the glory of God, their own usefulness and happiness, and the present and future well-being of their fellow men; let them feel that in becoming missionaries they are not, like those engaged in purely secular occupations, however useful, honest and honourable, operating simply on perishable materials, they are operating on mind and spirit; they are affecting directly the highest interests of humanity—the effects of their labours are not confined to time, they will extend into and through all eternity.

ONE PROFESSION OPEN.

From what ever cause, there can be no doubt, that those influences, which would lead young men to become missionaries, are brought to bear far too lightly on the rising youth of the churches. Every church and every missionary society is crippled for want of agents. Why is this, while every other profession is over-supplied with candidates—the medical, the legal, the literary, the mercantile, the agricultural—the missionary profession alone is under-supplied. And why should it be so? Surely there is nothing in the life of a missionary in these latter decades of this nineteenth century, as seen even from a worldly stand point,—nothing in his labours, his perils, his poverty, or his reproaches, that should stagger any brave, earnest-hearted christian youth.

On the other hand, as seen from the same point of view, there seems to be now falling to his share a pretty fair portion both of earthly rewards and worldly honour. While the crowning promise, from another stand-point, is—"They that be teachers (Marg.) shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever. (Dan. 22. 3.)

DR. GEDDIE'S STATION.

There is one other point to which I wish to call your particular attention, and that is the *immediate sending out of a missionary for Dr. Geddie's station*. Mr. Blue, who was appointed to occupy it while Dr. Geddie was to be absent, carrying a portion of the Scriptures through the press, resigned his appointment, which led the Dr. and his family to return here last year. No one, so far as we are aware, has been appointed in Mr. Blue's place. And now, that Mrs. Geddie has made up her mind not to return to Ancityum, and the Dr. is suspending the printing of the Scriptures for nine months, to come down here and keep the station open himself till the end of this year, and to return to Victoria at that time to resume his editorial labours—some definite arrangement must be speedily made.

The Dr. has no doubt, as he intended, explained to you fully the circumstances of the case. But as he specially urged me, before he left the island, to write you, and back up his application, I write you on this point in compliance with his request.

In the present state of the mission, Ancityum is by far the most important island of the group. It is the basis of operations for all the other islands, Dr. Geddie's station, being at the harbour, where all vessels come in and anchor, and where the Dayspring has her headquarters, is decidedly the most important of the two mission stations on the island; and were it to be left vacant for any length of time, this state of things would be highly injurious to this island, and disadvantageous to the whole mission.

In settling new missionaries, we have hitherto acted on the principle of locating them in the stations most open on their arrival, without any reference to the church by which they were supported, or to which they belonged; and in filling up stations, as they become vacant, it is probable the same principle will, in general, be adopted. It was even mooted that that should be done in reference to Dr. Geddie's station, if a successor do not arrive soon. The Dr. had even proposed to his son-in-law, Mr. Neilson, to come over from Tanna and take his place. Other things being equal, nothing would be more natural than for Mrs. Neilson to succeed her mother, and