

hard ways of men—began to revive and assert itself, a few only here and there were capable of recognizing it and appreciating it. The great body both of clergy and people were, at the period, without any desire or disposition for it, but at the present day we are glad to note that that dead apathy has to a great extent passed away.

VALUABLE WORKERS.

MISS WILDER, daughter of the late editor of the *Missionary Review*, on her way to India by way of England, sends back some interesting items of news. She travelled from London in company with some ladies who were on their way to China in connection with the China inland mission. Two of these ladies were going at their own expense. Another, Miss Hanbury, has her passage paid by her brother. She leaves a beautiful home and a class of some sixty workmen; several of them were notoriously wicked, but are now earnest Christians. In a farewell to Miss Hanbury, these men knelt in prayer, and one after another the prayers followed, some praying for the first time. Upon rising to their feet they found they had been praying an hour and a half.

"As our train moved out of London," says Miss Wilder, "I noticed salutes from many officials. All along at stations between London and Southampton these farewells were repeated, and here and there a railway man slipped a note into the hand of dear Miss Campbell. All was explained when I learned that some hundreds of railway men have been brought to Christ through the efforts of this Scotch lady. Miss Campbell's going to foreign work has enlisted four ladies to take up her home work."

Work for Christ at home is the best preparation for work in His cause abroad.—*The Missionary*.

MISSIONS AND MISSIONARIES.

By MRS. JAMES MCCAUGHY, INGERSOLL, ONT.

SOME few years ago an article appeared in the *London Times* on the subject of missions, dealing particularly with foreign missions. In that article the writer affirmed "that missions do not excite the interest and command the support to which they are entitled," and asked how it was that, whilst merchants and manufacturers build and endow churches, and others spend immense sums for purposes of mental and social improvement, "very few are troubling themselves much about the propagation of the Gospel, the richest and most generous being content to give the merest trifles towards the extension of that heavenly kingdom which, besides its sublimer aspects, is beyond a doubt the great political power, the civilization and the hope of the world." In reply to his own position the writer goes on to say, that the reason for all this, is to be found in

the absence of facts and details, and that account of results which every sensible person requires in every matter he takes in hand; that very few people get any satisfactory information about missions and missionaries; that the reports of the various societies are unreadable and unread, and that it is the almost universal belief that there is no work in progress worthy of the name. As it has been calculated that in the Peninsular war, for every Frenchman killed, England had sent out the weight of a man in lead, and eight times that weight in iron, so it is believed that the conversions bear no proportion whatever to the means and agency employed. If this be not so, if multitudes hear and gladly believe, if pentecostal wonders are repeated in city after city; if there is any great success anywhere, why are the public not made thoroughly acquainted with it in language which they can read, believe and feel?

One scarcely knows whether to feel pity or indignation on reading and hearing remarks like these, and though it is difficult to understand how educated people can be such utter strangers to the religious literature of the day, it is an undeniable fact that this is the language which those interested in missions hear on all sides every day of their lives. It may be the misfortune, but certainly it is not the fault, of the various missionary societies that so many people are ignorant of their existence and success. All have not succeeded equally well, perhaps; but patience and persevering toil has invariably been crowned with success, and the uniform testimony of the messengers of the Churches is, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of His knowledge by us in every place." It may be that, in the judgment of some persons, annual reports are unreadable and unread; but so are the Blue Books of the House of Commons, upon which England spends £100,000 every year. Reports are for the most part business documents, abounding in what, taken alone, may be regarded as dry details; but there is other missionary literature, and I am not afraid to say that, for power, poetry, romance, thrilling incident and sterling interest, there is nothing in modern literature to surpass the records of missionary adventure and enterprise. Let any unprejudiced person read the journals of the missionaries, the intelligence contained in the regular monthly papers of the various societies, and the records of the labors of missionary heroes and martyrs who have gone to their reward, and I think he will come to the conclusion that there is something to tell—that it is told, and well told—and that they who will not and do not read it, are very seriously in fault, and ought to be silent upon a subject which they do not understand, and on which they are not qualified to pronounce.

In this paper I propose to give the barest outlines of the working of the various missions conducted under the auspices of the different sections of the Church of Christ; to furnish statistics of their