

independent missionaries, and the field is large enough for workmen who choose to go on their own responsibility, or in connection with a local church.

3. When missionaries are accepted by any Board, and sent forth by that Board, the support of the parties is assumed by the Board, together with expenses of transportation, and a certain reasonable allowance for outfit. The sum allowed for salary and outfit is determined by each Board according to its own scale, and sometimes differs according to the field chosen. Direct correspondence with the secretaries will elicit all needful details of information.

4. Ordinarily, the Boards choose the field and locate the workers, according to their judgment of comparative need of the various fields; otherwise one field might be overstocked and the others totally neglected. But, if for any reason a party is especially drawn toward, or fitted for any special field, the Board will take all this into consideration, and it is well to state frankly to the secretaries the whole case. Sometimes a party offers to go to a certain field, and others offer to support him or her in that field; these proposals will always get a courteous hearing from the secretaries if they are true men, and not "wooden perfunctorians." The best way is, ordinarily, to offer oneself to go wherever the greatest need exists.

5. If a candidate puts himself at the disposal of a Board, of course he must wait until the Board is ready to send him, having a place for him, and money to pay his expenses and salary. If one is ready to go and provide for himself, as thousands should who are abundantly able, let him go. We see no reason why men and women should not, at their own charges, go and undertake the work of teaching and evangelizing. As the lack of money is the principal embarrassment, the Boards would gladly commission hundreds more workmen, if they would relieve the Boards of pecuniary obligation.

6. One who wishes to go to a foreign field would best begin by a close *self-examination*. Missions have in these days not a little romance investing them. The fascination of foreign travel, the appetite for sight-seeing, the enchantment lent by distance to the view, the contagion of enthusiasm, and many other things surround mission work with a halo; and when this is dissipated, it is not easy to settle down to the real hard monotonous work of mastering a foreign tongue, and getting into close contact with superstitious, degraded, and often dirty people. It is well to count the cost before choosing the foreign field, and ask whether the motive is really love to Christ and to souls, and whether there is a spirit of self-denial. Then the next step is, as already hinted, devout and believing prayer for divine guidance, and a proper waiting on God for a

true preparation and for indications of His will. Then it may be well to consult one's pastor, and the secretary of the Board of the church, and learn what farther fitness is needful, and so be guided in study and preparatory work. In our opinion, nothing is more needful, however, than at once to enter upon *Christian work at home*, in the field nearest at hand. There is no more fatal mistake than to postpone direct work for souls until one enters upon his permanent field. The most important test of the reality of the missionary spirit, and the most important school for other work abroad is found in present, personal and direct endeavor to save the lost. Actual experience in evangelistic work, especially among the non-church-going classes in our towns and cities, will soon show whether a man or woman has any adaptation for the missionary field, and is worth more than any teaching in the class-room as a training for wider service.

7. As to general preparation, we can only say that the more complete the intellectual furnishing of a man or woman the better. Preaching and teaching the Gospel is a great calling, and no fitness for it can be too ample. Here, above all fields, there is no place for novices. Often, as in India, there is the severest tax upon the intellectual resources of the missionary. He finds himself confronting intelligent, subtle, sophistical Brahmins, and needs a well-trained and furnished mind. God is not in a hurry. Better come late to your life work and come fit for it than hurry into it prematurely. It cannot be said, however, that any course, collegiate or theological, is a "necessity." God has called men into very successful service, like Johnus in Sierra Leone, who have had no scholarship or learning. But it is foolish to neglect any intellectual preparation that is possible and practicable. Ordinarily the churches ask of candidates for the foreign field just what they ask of candidates for the home pulpits, a schooling in college and theological seminary, or its equivalent in private study. Exceptional cases are dealt with exceptionally. If a man feels impelled to go abroad, and his age, his poverty, or other obstacles make an extended course impracticable, he should at least see that he is grounded in a thorough knowledge of the Bible and of Christian doctrine. If he can familiarize himself with the great outlines of church history and learn to read the New Testament in the original Greek, and by practice acquire facility of expressing himself in public, and by personal work learn how to counsel and comfort inquiring souls, he will have but little difficulty in getting an appointment to the field.

8. There is room on the foreign field for as many varieties of workmen as on any other field at home. Graduates from high schools, normal schools, schools of technology, specialists of all sorts, may find opportunity among