

PASTOR'S PAGE.

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"Go out *quickly* into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind." Luke iv. 21.

I. WE HAVE SO LONG DELAYED.

When the Bible was taken to the Fiji Islands they asked, "How long have you had this book? Why did you not bring it to us before?"

Miss Mary Whateley labored among the harems of Cairo, and talking of Christ's love, was one day addressed by an eagerly attentive woman: "Oh, why was I never told of this before?"—*Our Eastern Sisters*.

At Malatia, in Turkey, when Miss Maria West was talking about the way of salvation, and aged Armenian mother moaned out: "Oh, why didn't you come before? Why didn't you come before? It is too late for me to learn the way!"—*Romance of Missions*.

"I am the chief of a numerous people," said an aged warrior in the Manitoulin Islands, "and I wish to have them instructed. We have heard that our brothers who are near settlements have received the Great Word. We have heard that the Great Spirit has told the white man to send the Great Word to all his children; why does he not send it to us? I have been looking many moons down the river for the missionary's canoe but it has not come yet."

II. THE WORLD'S NEED CALLS FOR HASTE.

When Kapiolani, Queen of the Hawaiian Islands, was told by an old priest how a little boy had been offered in sacrifice, she hid her face with her hands, and weeping, said: "Oh, why did not the Christians come sooner and teach us better things?"—*Honolulu*.

When Miss West spoke to an Armenian converted woman at Harpoot about returning to America, "Oh, don't go; stay longer and teach us!" she exclaimed, and added, "Why didn't the missionaries come before? If they had only come when I was young, I too might have worked for Christ!"—*Romance of Missions*.

At a Sunday School celebration in Hilo, Sandwich Islands, when thousands of children were present in holiday dress, an aged woman was noticed moving about in great distress, beating her breast and wailing. A missionary asked the cause. The poor creature said: "Why didn't the missionaries come before? These hands are stained with the blood of twelve children and not one remains of my flesh to rejoice here to-day." She then cried out again, "Oh, why didn't the missionaries come before?"

III. THIS IS A CRITICAL TIME.

Col. G. A. Jacob, late of Bombay Staff Corps, says after thirty-five years' residence in India: "It is a critical time. The opportunities may soon pass. If the work is to be done at all, it must be done at once."

Bishop Thoburn, who has spent thirty-four years in India, writes: "The Christian missionaries of India have been brought face to face with a responsibility and an opportunity such as our fathers never knew. . . . If

any such opportunity has ever been presented to the Church of Jesus Christ since the day of Pentecost, I have strangely failed to hear it."

De Messmore writes as follows in the *Indian Witness* of May 5th, 1894: "India cannot wait, simply because in her case waiting means the adoption of European civilization without European Christianity, and the work of moral and spiritual regeneration will be inconceivably more difficult than it would be were the Gospel given to her during the days of her transition. . . . If the change is completed without the Bible, and the new civilization of India crystallizes into a godless irreligious life, it will be almost impossible to make any moral impression upon it by teaching Christian doctrine. It is 'now or never almost.'"

IV. WE HAVE ONLY THE OPPORTUNITY OF THIS LIFE.

"I have but one candle of life to burn, and it may soon flicker out, but I would rather burn it out where men die in darkness than let it burn in a land flooded with light."—*A Missionary*.

Dr. Grant said: "I cannot, I dare not go up to judgment till I have done the utmost God enables me to do to diffuse His glory through the world."

"I will go where you want me to go, Lord,
Over mountain or plain or sea;
I will say what you want me to say, Lord,
I will be what you want me to be."

Suggested Programme.

1. HYMN 233.
2. PRAYER.
3. THE DUTY OF TITHING.

Lev. xxvii. 30: "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord."

Mal. iii. 8-12: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offering. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of Hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed, for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of Hosts."

4. A paper on Tithing, ten minutes, followed by five minute discussion.

5. HYMN 115.

6. Outline for suggested Bible reading:

Thanks—{ Giving—Sacrifice of Praise. Heb. xiii. 15, 16.
Living—Living Sacrifice. Rom. xii. 1.
Offering—Our Aspect toward God 1 Peter ii. 5.
Our Aspect toward Man. 1 Peter ii. 9.