

been felt and acknowledged. I do not like the impression some have that Scotchmen are all fond of whisky; when we say men we take in all. I, for one, never tasted

whisky, and could mention many others. Had there been a large body of Saints here I do not think they would care about it.

GLASGOW, Scotland.

A WORD TO THE YOUNG MISSIONARY.

BY CHARLES DERRY.

WHILE it is true that "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty," he does not desire us to remain in ignorance, but he has commanded us thus: "Study my word which hath gone forth among the children of men, and also study my word which shall come forth."—Doctrine and Covenants 10:10. Again: "Seek ye out of the best book words of wisdom; seek learning by study, and also by faith."—Doctrine and Covenants 85:36.

The writer well remembers two young ministers starting out together to preach the gospel. One realized that he lacked experience and needed light with every other qualification for the work, although he had been a student of the scriptures from his childhood, hence he must dig and delve for light, as well as pray; and while traveling on foot or otherwise, his Bible was his constant companion and from this source he sought to gather light by constant study. His fellow traveler was not given to study, but imagined the Holy Spirit would furnish him with divine knowledge in the hour of need without exertion on his part, and he would often jeer at his companion because of his more studious efforts and insist that he must depend entirely on the Spirit. The result was that this young man failed every time he arose to address an audience,—the Holy Spirit refused its aid because he neglected to exert his own innate powers, and at the end of three months he was called home as incapable of filling the high and holy calling of a minister of Christ.

Young man, "Study to show thy-

self approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."—2 Timothy 2:15. Remember the Holy Spirit is promised as a guide and teacher—the traveler must keep pace with the guide, but he must use his own eyes and ears. Then what he can not understand the guide will make clear. If we neglect to cultivate our own powers of mind the guide will leave us to ourselves and we shall be deemed unprofitable servants.

It will increase our efficiency to be acquainted with the doctrines and orders of other churches, but we must seek that information from their own accredited works and not from their enemies, nor yet from mere newspaper reports. Weigh their doctrines carefully by the light of God's word, then we shall be prepared to sift the chaff from the wheat. It is indeed a totally corrupt creed that has no truth in it, and we must be willing to "admit the truth wherever found, whether upon Christian or infidel ground." Biggotry and prejudice must have no place in our hearts; but it does not follow that we must bow at the shrine of error because it has some grains of truth mingled with it. Moral courage is a grand qualification for the gospel minister to possess. It is defined as "that quality of mind enabling one to meet danger and difficulties." In all ages truth has been opposed, and those who adhered to it have met with the most deadly opposition, and too frequently from those who pretended to be the friends of truth. This was the experience of Jesus Christ, and of all his ministry, nor have we any right to expect exemption from persecution and hatred, and unless we have a realization of the blessedness and power of truth we

can not stand; our courage will fail us. But in proportion as we realize the power and blessedness of truth, our love for it will increase; and with our love our moral courage will assert itself and we shall not shun to declare the whole counsel of God. "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."—Psalm 31: 24. "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: Wait, I say, on the Lord."—Psalm 27: 14.

The art of reading and speaking correctly should be cultivated. It will be found to be a great help to read aloud the best authors, noting the pauses and where emphasis is needed, the spelling and pronunciation of words. We may not be grammarians (it would aid us greatly if we were), but we can learn much by observing how others speak, especially the best orators. We may learn something from every speaker, even though it may be something to avoid as well as proper to put into practice. We need not ape or imitate the manners and voices of others, but what is good in their methods we may rightly adopt, but never ape or imitate their style, or, parrot-like, repeat their expressions. Let every man be himself. There is nothing more disgusting to an audience in a speaker, than for him to ape the voice and gestures of another while he is attempting to preach the gospel. The ass may don the lion's skin, but if his braying does not betray him his ears will. Let every man be himself. Correct your language, improve your form of speech, but be natural. Do not let your manner of speech and gestures occupy your mind so much that you lose sight of the grand object for which you were ordained, namely, to present the gospel of Christ in its plainness to perishing souls. God loves to see us trying to improve upon our talents and seeking to equip ourselves as workmen in his cause, but he wants us to keep Christ and his truth and the salvation of souls in the foreground. Then we shall find that he

will esteem and honor us because we seek to honor and glorify him.

It will be well for the missionary as he goes out into the world, amid strange people with different manners and customs, to accommodate himself to the different conditions he may be surrounded with. He will find many things not pleasant to his eye, and offensive to his mind. Not because they are morally wrong but because he has been differently trained. Wisdom is needed here and a wise head will hold a still tongue. Do not find fault; accept things as they come. Here the missionary will need a strong control over himself. This control must be exercised or he is a failure. No matter how eloquent an expounder of God's word he may be, his influence for good will be destroyed by his captious spirit. Paul said, "I am made all things, to all men, that I might by all means save some."—1 Corinthians 9: 22. But the grandest example of self-denial is found in the condescension of our Lord Jesus Christ, which it will be well for us all to bear in mind and see to it that the same mind which was in Christ Jesus shall be found also in us. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."—Philippians 2: 5. Christ never gave up his individuality as a man, nor as the representative of his Father. Neither are we called upon to yield our individuality. Our mission is to represent Christ and in doing so we "must condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceit. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." (Romans 12: 16-18.) "Remember, faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence. Ask and ye shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you. Amen."—Doctrine and Covenants 4: 2. May God bless this humble effort to all who read it is the earnest desire of the writer.