

rather, to use it as a road leading to "the Celestial Empire". In this purpose they were defeated. They found the doors to China closed and the "promised land" remained beyond the mountains. For years they wandered about in the wilderness, so to speak, disappointed because the people they had come to serve were not within their reach. Other languages and dialects had to be learned. They soon found that Assam was a veritable Babel, with languages too numerous to be learned, and with religions too complicated to be understood, yet they adapted themselves to meet the emergency. The possibility of having a uniform working plan was remote.

Modern investigators would do well in looking back into the early days and seeing with what care these early missionaries emphasized an educated Christian constituency. To the missionaries, education was essential for girls as well as for boys. They raised the position of womanhood, and thus they elevated the home from a mere stopping place to a sanctuary of affection. Their educational program stands as a monument to their wisdom.

If there is a lack of Christian leaders among the churches on the plains, it can be traced, perhaps, to combinations of circumstances uncontrollable by the missionaries, such as a multitude of races, lack of financial and moral support, low social status of the people who became Christians, and interference by Missionary Boards who insisted upon direct preaching of the gospel. Let it be known that the missionaries did not strive to "educate the heathen" but that their chief purpose was to preach the gospel of life and to make "wise unto salvation" by means of teaching. To preach, teach, and make disciples was their purpose.

With this aim before them the missionaries penetrated territories where no white person had ever been before, and by the grace of God changed savage head-hunters into promoters of righteousness. They laid the foundations for an indigenous church that will undoubtedly stand as long as Christianity lasts. All in all, they opened for the inhabitants of Assam the way that leads to a fuller and more complete life.

THE END