

MISSION WORK

DISCUSSED

Prof. Groner Speaks to a Large Audience of Students—Some Light Thrown on the Place of Christian Missions in the World's Progress.

The joint meeting of the Christian association Sunday afternoon was exceptionally well attended. Prof. Groner addressed the meeting, his theme being "the attitude of the college student toward Christian Missions." A missionary expert could not have had a more attentive hearing, nor spoken more effectively on the subject.

The speaker called attention first to the importance of Christian Missions. There is the great commercial and political significance of it. Trade inevitably follows the missionary, political changes soon come, China awakening is due purely and simply to the fact that in hundreds of centers missionaries have long been doing their quiet but effective work. Where the missionary goes caste breaks down and the love of liberty grows. But chiefly Christian missions means work toward the unity of the race and the redemption of mankind. Missionary

effort has done more for the world than all other forces combined.

The missionary chapter in the world's history is a most interesting one. There is no more inspiring biography than that of a Livingstone or a Payton. Read for example the sketch of Livingstone in Hillis' "Great Books as Life Teachers."

It is no small part of education to become familiar with great characters. There are no greater characters in history than some of those connected with missionary enterprises. The study of missions will lead on to the very proper conclusion that the message of the gospel makes character incomparably more than does science or philosophy. Students need to learn this lesson.

The study of Christian missions will lead to greater respect for the church. The church must be judged like any other institution, not by its weakest members, but by the greatest characters it is capable of producing. If one doubts the character or the strength of the missionary, let him visit him at his work, or better still, visit a missionary convention and he will discover that some of the best brains of the day are engaged in this enterprise. Finally, it is perfectly natural for a Christian to become a missionary. It is a large part of education to know the history of Christian missions, and its present share in the world's life. The foremost non-Christian who thoughtfully reads and properly interprets the history of Christian missions will soon find himself within the church with his shoulder to the wheel.