

## The Missionary World.

IT is curious and somewhat saddening to read the review of 1911 in the *Times*, from the standpoint of a man who believes that the purpose of the ages is the extension of the kingdom of God. One by one the leading events at home and abroad are recorded, and the forces lying directly behind them are discussed. The tone is grave and thoughtful, the emphasis is proportionate and just, the outlook is sane. But the great God of history, whose purpose lies at the base of all these movements, is not openly recognized. Yet His living and overruling Providence has been steadily at work, the greatest force and factor in all the complexities and combinations of life, the one enduring will which must ultimately be "done on earth." As we enter into 1912, there is no simplification in the conditions round us. India has, in answer to many prayers, been drawn closely to the King-Emperor. But China is still in revolution, Persia in protracted unrest. Between Germany and ourselves—two great Protestant nations whose interests are fundamentally at one and who should stand before the world not as rivals but as brothers—relations are unhappily strained. Industrial upheaval and political tension disturb our peace at home. Church questions of grave magnitude are clamant for an answer. A thousand currents swirl round us and threaten to sweep us from our feet. But there is still the secret place of the Most High where we may take refuge, not for selfish shelter, but in search of calm victorious strength. We can only serve our own generation faithfully through an influence at one with the purpose of God. It is the old deep lesson, "Abide in Me and I in you. . . . Apart from Me ye can do nothing."

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In the *Missionary Review of the World*, Dr. James Dennis of New York (well known by his book "Christian Missions and Social Progress") sums up at length the "Missionary Assets and Liabilities of 1911." The contrast between his review of the year and that in the *Times* is striking. One deals with

great events, the other with small ones. Yet it may be that the true significance of the latter would turn the scale. It matters little to the world at large that 1911 saw the great celebration in America of the Women's National Foreign Mission Jubilee; that the Lucknow Conference on Missions to Moslems was held; that the Continuation Committee of the World Missionary Conference met at Auckland Castle; that both in America and in Great Britain there were conferences of the officials of the various missionary societies; that the World Student Christian Federation held its Conference at Constantinople; that the American Student Volunteer Movement celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary, having "enlisted nearly 5,000 young and strong recruits for foreign missionary service"; that the Tercentenary of the Authorized Version of the English Bible was widely observed; that the total number of missionaries sent out "apparently exceeds that of any reported year since Christ came to inaugurate the great mission of His Church"; that native leaders begin to multiply in the mission-field Churches; that the liberality of the native Christians is growing; that there has been a marked advance in facilities for training missionaries, in the number of Mission Study Circles, and in the production of missionary literature. But these facts, looked at in relation to the spread of the kingdom, are alive with import. Dr. Dennis well points out that the missionary assets of 1911 produce the missionary liabilities of 1912.

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Notices both in the secular and religious press have shown already that the Students' Conference at Liverpool fulfilled the high hopes based upon it, and brought the answer to many prayers. "It was *Christianity*," said a delegate whose own life-sphere lay in foreign missionary work. From the first, human need, whether in the home or foreign field, was treated as one, and Christ was upheld as the only means to meet it. The plea for social reform and for missionary advance both sprang directly from the revelation of God in Christ. There was the wonderfully intent audience, the reverent spirit, the quiet and

gracious leadership which has long characterized Student Movement gatherings. The most impressive moment of the whole Conference was when, after a great address upon "The Death of Christ," the vast audience sang "Rock of Ages, cleft for me." The official Report of the Conference, containing all the most important addresses, has just been published, price, 2s. It should be ordered without delay from the office of the Student Christian Movement, 93, Chancery Lane, London, E.C.

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The Scriptural basis and devotional aspect of missions and missionary service are well to the front in the January magazines. In *The East and the West* the Rev. G. Currie Martin, Secretary of the L.M.S., writes on "The Theory and Practice of Missions in the New Testament." The *C.M. Review* has a stimulating message for the New Year by the Rev. Cyril C. B. Bardsley, and a thoughtful meditation on "Faith" by the Rev. G. B. Durrant. *The Bible in the World* opens with an impressive article called "The Time is Short." *India's Women*, the organ of the C.E.Z.M.S., has an able paper on "The World Crisis and the Missionary Message," by Mrs. Graham Wilmot Brooke, and in *China's Millions* Mr. D. E. Hoste, General Director of the C.I.M. writes on "Some Missionary Motives." It is also noteworthy that at the Islington Clerical Meeting—assembling just as these lines are written—the Hon. Secretary of the C.M.S. is to speak on "The Call to Evangelize the World." We need deep roots in these days of wide expansion.

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The outlook upon the field of missionary literature grows brighter year by year. The larger reviews are now reinforced by the welcomed *International Review of Missions*. The lesser missionary magazines have in many cases improved in appearance, and offer better paper, better type, better illustrations than in the past. The old slipshod effect has vanished; the present struggle is between a desire to do what is popular on the one hand, and on the other to fulfil the educational and inspira-

tional functions which alone justify the heavy expenditure which missionary publications involve. In some cases the "snippet" still prevails. "Snippets are always read," said a missionary editor pathetically the other day. But there is a beginning of better things. Several magazines—notably the Wesleyan *Foreign Field*—have been backing up Mission Study textbooks with diagrams and news from the field. The B.F.B.S. magazine is just beginning a record of "The Bible Society in Pagan Africa," by William Canton. Others are issuing serial matter of considerable value. The *Foreign Field*, for instance, is using the pen of the Rev. E. W. Thompson, a recognized authority on Hinduism, and the L.M.S. *Chronicle* is giving a serial autobiography of a Sakalava prince, translated by a Madagascar missionary, because of its "importance to ethnologists, comparative students of religion, and students of religious psychology." The inclusion of articles from periodicals in the bibliography in the *International Review of Missions* should develop this tendency. The day may not be far off when missionary editors will combine to procure and publish matter from their various fields and denominations to illustrate some great topic which is being investigated by the whole Church. Until some such step is taken the advance of the science of missions must be slow.

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The Baptist Missionary Society is trying an interesting experiment. Hitherto they have issued a general magazine—the *Herald*—to which we have often referred, and also separate magazines for their medical work, and their Baptist Zenana Mission. Now these three have been combined into one. The first number is naturally largely given to *personalia*. Unless these can be greatly lessened it is difficult to see how an adequate presentment of the cause can be made in the available space. The principle has much to commend it, but it will not be easy to work out. The B.M.S. has now a European staff of 440 missionaries, wives, and woman helpers, including twenty-seven doctors and twelve nurses. The Baptist Zenana Mission

was, besides, ninety-one missionaries on its staff. The three main fields of labour are China, India, and the Congo. These responsibilities need to be brought effectively before the whole Baptist body if they are to be met. We wish the remodelled *Herald* all success

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Amongst other fruits of the Laymen's National Missionary Movement we shall soon hope to find an increase of missionary speeches and articles by laymen. They will be the most effective propagandists in their own ranks. This month the S.P.G. *Mission Field* reports a telling speech—a mingling of sane criticism with kindly counsel—by an M.P.; *The East and the West* has a vigorous article, "Where are the men?" by Major Storr, who is succeeding Captain Watson in the C.E.M.S.; and in the *C.M. Review*, one of the most consistent lay advocates of missions, Mr. Henry Morris, comments at length on the History of the Bible Society. But we still wait for young laymen of the same type as those who share in the leadership of the Student Christian Movement to ally themselves with the general work of missions, and let their enthusiasm find expression in the ordinary missionary magazines.

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A new chapter is about to be begun in the wonderful story of the Uganda Mission. Bishop Tucker has seen marvellous developments. Many will unite in praying that Bishop Willis may see even greater things. His sympathy with "The Mind of an African" has been made manifest in more than one article he has written of late. He will receive a warm welcome in his new office from the people he loves.

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