

## The Missionary World.

CHRISTMAS-TIME draws us to stand once more by the cradle of the manger, and to look out with thankful hearts in the light of the Incarnation upon the world. The revelation of the Father through the Son of man is an inexhaustible source of inspiration, and contains a message whose fulness of meaning is not yet fathomed, much less proclaimed. More and more, for the life of the Church and for the quickening of the nations, the knowledge of Christ in personal experience is our only hope. As through His Cross He completes the world's redemption, so through His Incarnation He expresses God in terms which sons of men can apprehend. Out of Bethlehem Ephratah, little among the thousands of Judah there comes the Eternal One, born of a travailing nation, and in great humility, who is the Ruler, and the source of life and peace. From that lowly place, in the midst of national and international tumult, there rises, strong in simplicity and impressive in majesty, the figure of the great Shepherd standing to feed in the name of the Lord, who by His Presence gives sustenance and secures continuity. The picture which the prophet Micah sets before us is unsurpassable in beauty, full of stability and of rest. Can we, facing this new year of missionary service, ask more than a realization of that Presence, tender, strong, resourceful in our midst? Is it not enough to be the sheep of His pasture, fed from His Hand, watching with Him for those "other sheep," till we and they become "one flock"? In our strenuous days of committees, or of meetings, or of interviews, or even of controversies (which God avert!) let us practise withdrawal into the sanctuary of this vision of the Christ, calm, protective, life-giving, for ourselves and for the world. We need such refuge in our toil.

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The Conference recently held at Kikuyu, in British East Africa, raises questions of great and far-reaching import. The

subject, to which the religious and even the general Press are giving close attention, is editorially dealt with elsewhere in this number. It only remains here to note the striking endorsement of the statement often made that the outstanding problems which the Church has to face will be raised, and in God's time solved, in the new conditions of expanding life in the mission field. This is a powerful argument for sending out our best men and women to the places where formative work must be done. Those who have to take final action in regard to the issues raised at Kikuyu need the aid of our prayers.

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The official report of the meeting of the Continuation Committee in Holland has, at the time of writing, not yet been issued. It will shortly be put into circulation through the societies. But informal statements in the Press, and the testimony of individual members, leave no room to doubt that the Committee is moving wisely and steadily towards the accomplishment of its high aim. Some of the action taken—such as the Committee's definition of its relation to the mission boards and to missionary bodies abroad, to both of which it offers its services with no desire to legislate or to control, and the call to Dr. Mott, to which he cordially responded, to give himself mainly to forwarding the great undertakings which the Continuation Committee has in view—opens out a whole world of possibility. The spirit of love and unity in the meeting impressed those present very deeply, and is held to be the beginning of a new international fellowship in the furtherance of the Gospel.

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We have already in these pages called attention to the high value attaching to the "findings" of the twenty-one conferences in Asia presided over last winter by Dr. Mott. Even in their first inconvenient form—small pamphlets of varying size with no common index—they proved themselves indispensable to those who intelligently worked for missions. Now they have been issued by Dr. Mott in a well-ordered volume (price 7s. 6d. net,

from the office of the Continuation Committee, 1, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh), with excellent general and analytical indexes which make it easy to trace any topic through all the conferences. No book of reference published on missionary matters has ever equalled *The Continuation Committee's Conferences in Asia* in value, it is the condensed expression of the best thought and experience of the three great Asian mission fields. When Dr. Mott gives us a like volume for Africa and the Near East, the science of missions will enter upon a new era.

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On his way to the meeting of the Continuation Committee, Dr. Mott spent a few memorable days in the British Isles, first visiting Ireland and Scotland, then England. He had, as the *Student Movement* tells us, three main objects in view: "First, to report in person to the missionary societies of the British Isles the results of his tour in the Far East as Chairman of the Continuation Committee of the World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh; secondly, to confer with the General Committee of the Student Christian Movement; and, thirdly, to receive a sum of money for the work of the British Movement and the Federation, especially in Central and South-Eastern Europe and the Far East." The paragraph from which we quote indicates that the two latter objects were largely attained; the missionary magazines of the various societies record Dr. Mott's strenuous work in pursuance of the first object. Two of the S.P.G. papers have a brief but sympathetic reference to his interview with the Standing Committee; the *C.M. Review* has a series of able and extremely cordial notes arising out of his interview with the Committee of Correspondence, and *Mercy and Truth* notes his emphasis on the need for Union Medical Schools in China; the Wesleyan *Foreign Field*, notwithstanding the pressure of its centenary record, gives a column to Dr. Haigh's description of Dr. Mott's "three hours' visit"; the *L.M.S. Chronicle* says of his address that "the procession of facts and experiences as they flowed on for ninety minutes had all the wonderful impressiveness of an army marching past to

war"; the B. and F.B.S. report an interview "of an unusually important and profitable nature"; in *China's Millions* a brief discussion of how to increase the number of missionary intercessors is based on the impression left by Dr. Mott's address to the Council. Since the meeting of the Continuation Committee Dr. Mott has in like manner been visiting missionary organizations on the Continent, and goes thence to present the results of his tour to the mission boards in North America. We may well give thanks, in the words of the editor of the *C.M. Review*, that "God has raised up a man of peculiar gifts, and especially gifted with the grace that wins the respect and confidence of His servants."

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Space forbids any attempt to touch on many other matters of interest in the December magazines. We can only express thankfulness for the success of the Conference of the Laymen's Missionary Movement at Buxton, the report of which—*Men and the World Enterprise*—has just been issued (Oliphant, 1s. net); our sympathy for Bishop Montgomery and the S.P.G. in the disappointment caused by his serious illness and consequent early return from India; and our sense of the great value of tours of careful survey by missionary experts, such as the joint visitation of Madagascar by representatives of missionary societies working there, the visit of the L.M.S. deputation to India led by the Rev. Frank Lenwood, and now the deputation sent by the B.M.S., consisting of their chairman, Sir George Macalpine, and their foreign secretary, the Rev. C. E. Wilson, to attend the Triennial Conference of the Society to be held in Calcutta this month.

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Slavery and oppression die hard while greed for gold still dominates men. A special sub-committee of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society has been following up the work of the Putumayo Select Committee, and has just presented a strongly backed memorial to the Prime Minister, signed, amongst others, by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the

President of the Free Church Council. The recommendations urge the desirability of consolidating and extending the Slave Trade Acts, in order to render evasion of them more difficult and to fix more responsibility upon the British directors of companies employing native labour in the tropics; the need for the revision of British anti-slavery treaties with foreign Powers in order to adjust them to modern conditions and secure the fulfilment of their obligations; and the appointment of a few specially qualified consuls commissioned to investigate conditions of labour in the less accessible parts of the world. The book on *Portuguese Slavery* (Methuen, 1s.), recently issued by the Rev. J. H. Harris, author of *Dawn in Darkest Africa* and one of the secretaries of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, gives overwhelming evidence that in an African area there is need for active intervention just as really as there was in South America, though the oppression is different in form.

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We have been asked to make known that the January number of the *International Review of Missions* contains a "Missionary Survey of 1913" by Mr. J. H. Oldham, some 30,000 words in length, based on the reports of Missionary Societies and organizations in the mission field, on a regular examination of 250 magazines, newspapers, and reviews, both general and missionary, and on personal communications from over 150 correspondents in all parts of the world. The international resources at the service of the Continuation Committee of the Edinburgh Conference have been fully utilized to make this connected literary record of a year so full of world-wide political, social, and religious significance unique in value to students of missions. Ministers will find in this survey a background for the missionary propaganda of their own denomination. The material is grouped under different countries, including all the mission fields and the home base in America, Great Britain, and the continent of Europe; side-notes facilitate reference to the various topics, and the main published sources of information are indicated in footnotes.