

The Missionary World.

WE referred last month to the need for a proper sense of perspective; for that long look at circumstances, present and to come; and for the perception that pierces through the material to the spiritual. Once again on the threshold of a New Year—new, probably, with a newness this world has never known—we are indebted to the *International Review of Missions* for its "Missionary Survey of the Year," which occupies over seventy pages in the January number. Here, indeed, is perspective here is hope, here is strong confidence, for here, in the desolateness of wrecked purposes that were otherwise overwhelming, we are led to see that even now "the building of the eternal kingdom of truth, righteousness, and love in the hearts of men goes silently on." Through the courtesy of the editor we, in common, we believe, with other magazines, have been sent an advance note from the conclusion of the survey, which we print in full, recalling that

"The hour is darkest near the dawning, and afar
We catch the glimmer of the morning star."

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Here is the extract referred to:

"The preceding pages (pp. 2-69) record much serious loss. The work of German missions in India and Kamerun, and of British missions in the Turkish Empire and in German East Africa, has been for the time almost completely interrupted. In other parts of the mission-field there has been serious disorganization, depletion of staff, and restriction of work. Postponement of plans for advance and the practice of the most rigid economy have been the rule throughout the entire mission-field. . . . Hundreds of devoted men and women have seen the work built up by the unselfish labours of a lifetime apparently swept away in the flood. Many more have had their plans upset and the realization of their hopes indefinitely postponed. Bitterness has entered into the relations of those engaged in the service of their common Lord. The moral prestige of Christendom has suffered a blow from which it will take long to recover.

"But the record of the year is not all dark. Through the dark clouds there are gleams of sunlight to strengthen faith and quicken hope. The injury to mission work has been by no means so general and widespread as might have been anticipated. In important mission-fields such as Japan, China, and, except as regards the German missions, India, work has been continued for the most part on normal lines. In many instances where loss has come, the hour of trial has revealed unsuspected loyalties and called

forth unwonted sacrifices. It is most encouraging that in so many fields the returns for the circulation of the Scriptures in 1914 should show a remarkable increase on all previous records. In all the principal mission-fields of Asia fresh vigorous efforts have been made to reach the people with the Gospel, and have met with a cheering response. While war has raged in Europe, there has been in many parts of the mission-field a quiet growth of a deeper corporate life, a drawing closer together of the different missionary bodies, and a steady progress in the formulation of wise missionary policies. . . . In all these things we can trace the signs of the working of the Spirit of God, and they are an assurance that even amidst the distraction and turmoil of war the building of the eternal kingdom of truth, righteousness, and love in the hearts of men goes silently on."

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We have been informed that the customary section on the home base will not appear in the survey, as given in the January issue of the *Review*, but will be reserved for the April number. We who are held responsible for this part of the missionary task dare not allow ourselves to regard it as a struggle for survival. Rather are we free creatures, freely receiving the gift of life, that we may breast the tide in faith and hope, and not be overborne in the strength of its adverse flow.

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We presume that all our readers are following closely the Conventions which the C.M.S. is arranging in over one hundred centres in England and Ireland, supported as they are with appropriate publications and guided with wise counsel from Salisbury Square. Undoubtedly they are links of a great chain or springs in a great channel uniting the needs of man with the power of God. They are not to be regarded as of value to the society primarily, though they are, we doubt not, absolutely essential to its existence, because of their object; rather are they indications of a hunger and a thirst which God is creating in His Church which nothing will satisfy save the coming of God Himself. The Rev. C. C. B. Bardsley wisely asks us to seek "revival" rather than "a revival," a term round which a certain spiritual connotation has grown up. We know not in what form or manner we shall be "revived," what conviction of sin, what penitence, what sacrifice, what reformation of method and lifting of ideal are requisite; but we know we need "revival," and we know its source and that its centre must be the Blessed Person of the

Saviour of mankind. We commend, in particular, the suggestion given in the *C.M.S. Gazette* that little groups of missionary workers should meet for prayer for "revival." We may have the simplicity of children in our method, and their directness in our approach to God.

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From a circular issued by them, it is evident that the Board of the London Missionary Society is conscious of its great responsibility in coming to a conclusion during December which is referred to as "of great moment for the future of the society," and which will evidently affect policy to a large extent. The circular further says: "It is of tremendous importance that at this hour the action of the Board shall express the Will of God." That in clear and straightforward language is the issue before every missionary board or committee just now. The decision of the L.M.S. will be taken while these pages are in the press, but our prayers and our sympathy can follow the result, even if they be too late to share in the process. We are indebted to the L.M.S. for reminding us in the same circular of the notable words recently used by Lord Bryce: "The one sure hope of a permanent foundation for world peace is in the extension throughout the world of the principles of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

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Pending their conclusion, we have refrained till now from commenting on two noteworthy articles which have been completed in the *C.M. Review* for December. That by the Bishop of Uganda entitled, "The Educational Problem in Uganda," appears in the November and December numbers, and gives a full account of an educational conference composed of European and native members held at Budo from April 17 to 26. The wisdom of allowing the Church at home to get this clear insight into the educational problems of the Church abroad is altogether to be commended. Whether the course adopted be approved in all instances or not, the revealing of the situation will be welcomed by everyone, and we shall all feel we have some share now in the task which awaits the Bishop and his staff. We are especially glad to read that the "danger of having an educated laity

and a less educated body of clergymen " is so fully recognized. This is a danger common to many parts of the mission-field, and one which should arrest the speech of those who are apt to question the necessity for higher theological education. Bishop Willis concludes finely by saying: " The end is not yet; but this first educational conference has at least given us glimpses of the far distant goal and of the path by which we must travel in the struggle of God."

The Rev. G. T. Basden is less fortunate in presenting his subject—" Denationalizing a Primitive People"—inasmuch as his article was published in October and December; nevertheless, he succeeds in carrying forward the interest. His treatment of the subject has the demerit of being defensive, and he is sensitive to the ill-informed criticism dealt out to Government and missionary alike. But his paper has not only a present illuminative value, but a permanent worth for all those who wish to understand the inevitable social changes which Western civilization introduces among primitive peoples through new methods of government, travel, commerce, education, and clothing. Part of the value of the paper as a piece of evidence lies in the fact that Mr. Basden illustrates all his general contentions by his own intimate knowledge of the Ibo country in Southern Nigeria.

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Missions Overseas, the eighth annual review of the Central Board of Missions for 1915, derives its distinctiveness this year from special articles on the missionary Church in Australasia and in particular from a sketch on the " Historical Development of the Anglican Church in Australia." At a time when the heroism of sons of Australia and New Zealand on the classic shores of the Ægean is stirring every heart, it is fitting that we should be reminded of the origin of that Anglican Church founded by men no less heroic in another way. To the average Churchman it would seem almost a fairy-tale that less than one hundred years ago Australia was an archdeaconry in the Diocese of Calcutta, and even this arrangement was an advance in organization. We cordially agree with the Bishop of Goulburn in his saying: " The material for the making of Australian manhood is magnificent ";

“ national character ” is already apparent, is “ rapidly setting,” and the Church has a unique influence in “ fashioning the mould and fixing the types.” A full study of this survey of Australasia, occupying not far from one-half of the whole report, and including studies of the Bush Brotherhood, the Melanesian Mission, the Presbyterian Churches, the Foreign Missions of Australasian Methodism, the Australian Board of Foreign Missions, and the Australian agency of the London Missionary Society, will knit the hearts of Churchmen to the strong new peoples of the Southern Seas. Before turning from *Missions Overseas*, we call attention to the brief, pregnant contribution of Bishop Brent, of the Philippines. Has he not touched once more on the inner problem of the Church, and does he not indicate in his suggestive way the path to tread? But the whole report will surely be carefully read.

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The December number of *China's Millions* contains the last journal received from Mr. James R. Adam, giving an account of a seven weeks' tour among the hill tribes of Kweichow. Few men have been privileged to reap so great a harvest as this faithful missionary, who was recently suddenly struck by lightning in his home in China and instantaneously killed. In his own district he had seen the baptism of 6,449 of the poor despised Miaos in twenty years, and at his death there were 5,590 communicants, 42 evangelists, 29 school-teachers, 2 colporteurs, 3 Bible-women, and 323 unpaid helpers. He was a true father to the simple people among whom he worked. A second heavy sorrow has befallen them in the death shortly after of the Rev. S. Pollard, of the United Methodist Mission. This is an almost overwhelming blow for the Christian tribesmen, and they specially need our prayers. The story of Mr. Adam's life and work has been graphically told in a booklet called “ Some an Hundredfold,” which can be had from the office of the China Inland Mission.

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