

# THE MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD.

VOL. XI. No. 2.—*Old Series.*—FEBRUARY.—VOL. II. No. 2.—*New Series.*

## I.—LITERATURE OF MISSIONS.

### THE VINDICATION OF MISSIONS.

[EDITORIAL.—A. T. P.]

ALL along the lines Satan seems to sound the signal for an assault on missions. Perchance the day has dawned, foreseen in apocalyptic vision, when "the devil is come down, having great wrath because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Rev. xii: 12). Certainly there is, just now, a very unusual commotion among the foes of Christ and His Church, and it is manifestly caused by the unparalleled progress of Christian missions.

Satan is a master strategist. His favorite device is to employ respectable agents, and, best of all, professing disciples, to do his business. He disguises the *personnel* of the attack by getting them to hold the bow while he directs and discharges the venomous arrow. And so we find leading journals of America and Great Britain, and even a Canon of the Anglican Church, indulging in unfair and unfriendly criticism, and actually trying to prove "Christian missions a great failure"!

As to that "distinguished clergyman of the Church of England," too much notice has been taken of him already. He has bought a cheap notoriety by his antagonism to missions, without ever earning a costly reputation by his defense of the faith. In the November issue of the *Church Missionary Intelligencer* our friend "K." has given him and his paper an examination and an exposure so searching, so skillful, so analytic, so critical, that it leaves nothing for any other reviewer to do. That scholarly article we wish every one might read. It is at once a dissection and a castigation, reminding us both of the scalpel and of the scourge. The accomplished writer, with keen analysis of character and thorough knowledge of missions, cuts quick and deep beneath the cuticle of superficial information and professed impartiality, and reveals the real ignorance of facts and perversion of the truth which vitiate the Canon's essay. He calmly and coolly exposes and elucidates the entire structure of that misleading, if not malicious, paper, and justifies the judgment already pronounced upon its author by a very competent observer, that the "like of him for pretentious inaccuracy was hardly ever seen."