

with the exception of Arabia and part of Central Asia, the whole world lies open to missionary enterprise.

Again, Foreign Missions and missionaries were the butt of the literature of the day and objects of contempt and ridicule. Now, foreign work is generally recognized as an essential part of the Church's work, and missionaries are treated with respect and often with admiration by the secular press. Those who now speak scornfully of Missions are either ignorant or behind the age.

But the few who supported Missions in those days were very deeply in earnest. They agonized in prayer, and gave liberally and self-denyingly. And in this year of 1837, the C.M.S. sent a missionary to try and get into China; Krapf and Townsend sailed for Africa, and John Thomas to Tinnevely.

Now let us look briefly at some of the great heathen lands of the world as they were then and as they are now.

Africa, except just on the coast, was an unknown land. The only spot of light, as far as the C.M.S. was concerned, was on the west coast, where the Sierra Leone Mission had been started in 1804. There were only ten stations in 1837, and the whole of the Yoruba and Niger Country remained untouched. Now, the West Africa Mission has fifty-one stations, and its own self-supporting Native Church, governed by Bishop Tugwell and his two assistant Native Bishops. The way in which the whole of Africa has been thrown open and parcelled out from the coast to the centre in these days has been startling. Great inland countries such as Hausaland, are waiting for the Gospel. And what God has done for Uganda He is ready to do for the rest of Africa if we have faith and self-denial enough to rise to the most splendid opportunities that have ever been put before us.

China was in 1837 closed against the outer world. Now the sea-coast provinces are occupied and missionaries have penetrated into the interior. In spite of fierce outbreaks of fanaticism from time to time, the Chinese are growing eager for the Gospel, and now there are in China some fifteen hundred missionaries (including wives) of all Protestant Societies and about 100,000 converts. The C.M.S. has twenty-nine stations and some one hundred and thirty missionaries.

Japan was also closed. But full religious toleration is now granted and Japanese are embracing Christianity in a way which causes our missionaries to fear that it is the civilization that Christianity brings, and not so much Christianity itself, that is cared for by this up-to-date nation. But we have abundant proof that here also the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. The S.P.G. and several

American Societies are at work, and the C.M.S. has now seventeen stations and eighty-four missionaries in Japan.

Our Queen is Empress of India now, and the welfare of our Indian fellow-subjects should be specially upon our hearts. In 1837 there were no Medical Missions and very few women at work. To-day, churches have been multiplied, hundreds of thousands brought to Christ; education extended; infanticide and *Suttee* (burning of widows with the dead bodies of their husbands) stopped; Government support withdrawn from idolatry. But caste and Heathenism are not yet on the wane; and the population is increasing so rapidly that the Native Protestant Christians are even now not *one per cent.* of it. Amongst the most encouraging facts from India is the increase of Native ordained ministers from twenty-one to some eight hundred, in the last fifty years. Our C.M.S. work in India is so well known that we need not go into it specially.

New Zealand in 1837 was ceasing to be a cannibal country, and there were many tokens that the work begun by Samuel Marsden in 1814 had not been in vain. The New Testament had been translated into Maori, and the harvest of souls had begun. To-day a wonderful transformation has taken place. New Zealand is a great English colony, with a Native Church which entirely supports its own clergy.

In Northwest Canada, when our Queen came to the throne, there were only three churches, two English missionaries, and about two hundred communicants. Some people objected to missionaries being sent to the scattered population in this comparatively empty land, when the teeming millions of China and India were waiting for the Gospel. But it was worth while. In no land has God more blessed missionary work than amongst these Red Indians, the mass of whom are now evangelized. Seven enormous dioceses have been formed under seven very hard-working Bishops. The special efforts to reach the Eskimo in the far North are so recent, that we need only remind our readers of them, and of God's blessing upon them.

This hasty review of the progress of Foreign Missions during the past sixty years makes us thank God for the way in which He has abundantly blessed the efforts of His people. But we have no cause for self-congratulation. Look at a few plain facts:—

The Queen's subjects in 1837 were one hundred and thirty millions, now they are three hundred and fifty millions, and of these all but *one-seventh* are Heathen.

Nearly two-thirds of the world are still Heathen.

Every hour four thousand Heathen pass into Eternity.