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JOHN LIVINGSTON NEVIUS, THE MODERN APOSTLE OF
CHINA.*

BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

There is an apostolic succession, in a very unique sense. The Holy Ghost has His apostles, as the Acts of the Apostles proves; for, in the church of Antioch, He separated unto Himself and "sent forth" Barnabas and Saul; and, as the word apostle means one who is *sent forth*, Barnabas is afterward called an "apostle." (Compare 13 : 1-4 ; 14 : 14.)

Thus a word, hitherto having the specific sense of one chosen by Christ and sent forth by Him, and limited to such, is now for the first and, so far as we have observed, only time, used of a man who is sent forth under the authority and by the definite commission of the Spirit of God. Christ's apostles were all from those who had *seen Him after He was risen*, and who therefore can have no proper successors, as even Whately himself conceded; but the Holy Spirit's apostles may still be among us, for He still sends forth representatives, and we cannot doubt that he who is the subject of this sketch was among them.

For forty years out of sixty-four he was a missionary to the Chinese, and a faithful, loving, devoted, successful missionary he was. From the days of that pioneer, Robert Morrison, until now, it may well be doubted whether any one man has ever, during so long a term of service in the Middle Kingdom, had more abundant attestation that he was sent forth by the Spirit to that land.

It is true, Nevius was no common man. He possessed unusual capacity and sagacity combined, and he filled out a very varied and versatile career, as preacher, teacher, evangelist, pastor, organizer, administrator, gathering converts and training helpers, raising foreign fruits and relieving famished thousands, a botanist and an inventor, an author and a translator, all in one. He was so wise a counsellor that he was looked up to as a sage, so faithful an administrator that boundless confidence was re-

* John Livingston Nevius. By his wife. \$2.00. Published by F. H. Revell Co., New York.