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## APOSTOLIC MISSIONS ; OR, THE GOSPEL FOR EVERY CREATURE.\*

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“ And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.”—MARK xvi. 15.

It is a hundred years since the revival of the spirit of missions. At the close of the last century, amid the din and bloodshed of an earlier French revolution, Dr. Carey was publishing his first translation of the New Testament into one of the languages of Bengal. After seven years of apparently fruitless labor, he had begun to desecrate the water of the Ganges by the baptism of his first convert. In the same year Dr. Vanderkemp reached the Cape, and began missions in Africa. It is only a century since ; and now the Bible has been translated for the first time into more than a hundred and fifty languages, spoken by more than half the globe. Three thousand missionary evangelists are now laboring among the heathen. More than twenty thousand native preachers and teachers have been raised up through their toils, and native church-members are counted by hundreds of thousands. There are still found men who ask tauntingly for evidence of our success, and yet I venture to affirm that as mighty a work has been done in these last hundred years as in any hundred since the beginning of the Gospel : while in *Biblical Translation* as much has been done in this century, to give the Bible to the world, as was done in the eighteen centuries that preceded it—Pentecost included !

Cheering as this success and these labors seem, they have not kept pace either with the march of Providence or with the needs of the world. Knowledge and commerce and material civilization, the bounties and the openings of Providence have all multiplied faster than our missions. When Carey began his work India was closed to the Gospel, as was nearly all *Asia*. Over *Africa* there brooded a darkness which made even its geography a mystery. *Europe* was everywhere under the power of the man of

\* See Ed. Notes for Editor's Introduction.