

CONGREGATIONALISTS AND MISSIONS.

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A very important forward movement in foreign missions has just been inaugurated in England. The directors of the London Missionary Society have resolved, before the jubilee of the society in 1895, to add 100 more missionaries to its staff ; a large increase, since the present number is only 192. The importance of this resolution will be apparent if it be observed :

1. That this is the oldest Foreign Missionary Society in England next to the Gospel Propagation and Baptist Societies, and has the largest purely foreign missionary income, with perhaps two exceptions.

2. Its basis is undenominational, but practically it has fallen into the hands of Congregationalists, and is the only Foreign Missionary Society which in any sense belongs to them.

3. It has a distinguished history, since it was the first Protestant society to send missionaries into Polynesia, China, Madagascar, Lake Tanganyika in Central Africa, and to begin work in New Guinea on an important scale ; and in some of these fields it has had distinguished success.

4. It stands eminent for the number of its illustrious missionaries—Morison, Milne, Griffith John, Ellis, Williams, Moffat ; Livingstone being also of the number.

5. It has a larger staff of native agents in proportion to its European missionaries than any other society, since its ordained native ministers number 1224, its other native preachers and evangelists over 4100, and its school-teachers more than 3000, a large proportion of these being well tried and carefully trained.

Various causes have led the more ardent friends of the society to desire that it should attempt greater things. Among these may be mentioned the splendid openings for aggressive work around many of its stations in India, China, Madagascar, and New Guinea ; the painfully inadequate number of its missionaries in many important centres ; the examples of faith and enterprise set by some other missionary agencies, and the growing consciousness among Congregationalists that they are not doing their full part in the splendid enterprise of giving the Gospel to the non-Christian world. Convictions of this nature led four well-known ministers to issue a heart-stirring appeal only a few weeks ago, entitled " Congregationalism and the Evangelization of the World," the main purport of which was that at least 100 additional missionaries should be sent out : 40 more to India, 40 more to China, 10 more to Africa, 10 more to Polynesia, Madagascar, etc. This suggestion was embodied in the following resolution, which after most careful consideration was accepted by the board of directors at their first meeting in July :

" That it is desirable that the Society should, notwithstanding the adverse balance with which the past year closed, at once proceed to provide