

July 1912

3-

Spec. Ex. Cont. No. 246/512

10/1/12

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Board of the Baptist Foreign Missionary Society

OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

It is scarcely a hundred years since he who is called the pioneer of modern missions, faced almost alone the problem of the conversion of the heathen world to God. We still stand and marvel at the faith and courage of the man who in such an age could grapple with such a question. China and Japan were dead and their doors doubly barred; Africa worse than dead, the prey of every unclean beast from so-called Christian lands; India in heathen gloom, lay at the feet of a rapacious trade monopoly whose sole fear seemed to be that a single ray of celestial light might find entrance. A pall of hopeless night covered the islands of the sea, beneath whose shelter Satan's kingdom grew apace. Papal Europe was leagued together to quench the light of the Bible and the light of hope.

But the Lord of Hosts has been abroad among the nations of the earth since then, "And on the wings of mighty winds came flying all abroad." The Indian missionary and the Indian mutiny swept away the last vestige of the East India Company, and to-day India is far on her way to a Christian life and a Christian civilization. China is open, and the gospel, like a flood of light, is overspreading that land of walking millions. Japan is almost too ready, along with Western civilization to receive a Western religion, while in the land of Ham, the Lord has once more been stretching forth His hand in mighty wonders, to bring forth a people to His praise. Livingston and Stanley, representing two continents, have been used to open up channels of mercy to her sorely-trying sons. During this century the Lord has also been laying up in store the materials for the coming years. The virtual sovereignty of the earth He has given into the hands of Protestantism and the Bible. Britain and Germany beyond the sea, and the United States and Canada on this side. He has ribbed the earth with railways and churned the seas with steamers. He has dotted the world with printing presses, and pierced the clouds of every clime with the spires of school-houses and churches. His messages are carried by a tongue of fire beneath the sea, and his messengers whisper into the ears of other lands. He has provided an almost universal language—our own sweet mother tongue—and has placed four-fifths of these appliances and untold wealth in the hands of the Protestant nations.

3028550