

# THE MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD.

VOL. XI. No. 5.—*Old Series.*—MAY.—VOL. II. No. 5.—*New Series.*

## I.—LITERATURE OF MISSIONS.

### THE MISSION AND COMMISSION OF THE CHURCH.

[EDITORIAL.—A. T. P.]

ONE of Dr. Guthrie's rules for preaching was: "Mind the three 'P's': *Proving, Painting, Persuading.* In other words, address in every discourse the reason, the imagination, and the heart."

Of the "*painting*" we are to be not a little on our guard. The art that seeks to adorn the truth sometimes sacrifices it, by giving to it false features or tints: what may be fitting in the department of illustration misleads when it invades that of pure demonstration or definition. Here the one law is rigid exactness. Burke used to say that the words of a sentence are the feet on which it walks; to change one word, to shorten or lengthen it, or alter its place in the sentence, may change the whole course of the sentence itself.

In some things, accuracy is so indispensable that a hair's-breadth distinction may be vital, as in astronomical calculations the minutest fraction of an inch must be marked by the micrometer. For a soldier it is of the first importance to understand his "orders"; and for an ambassador, both to apprehend and comprehend his "instructions." The church is a militant body and at the same time an embassy, or, as Leland would say, an embassy. Too much pains, therefore, cannot be taken to get clear conceptions of the orders and instructions of our Captain and King.

In this article we propose to begin at the beginning—to go back to first principles. If there be any misconceptions of the Mission and Commission of the church, in respect to the world's evangelization, here is the point at which to make our corrections, adjust the variations of our compass, and start anew. The four Gospels, at their close, present our Lord's last command from four points of view; taken together, it is like a building presented with a four-fold projection. In some respects these various versions of our Lord's great commission agree; in others they differ, but it is like the discord of the seventh, that leads to harmony; their differences supplement and complement each other. For convenience of comparison, we place them side by side.