

THE RELATION OF MISSIONARIES, TEACHERS, AND COLLEGE PROFESSORS IN FOREIGN LANDS TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

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It has been a principle of action rather than of statute that the foreign missionary must take his chance, and must expect little aid when in difficulty and danger from his government. This, however, is peculiarly an American view. No one of the great governments of Europe, Catholic or Protestant, ever asserts it or acts upon it.

It is an unsafe principle, and should be made un-American. Missionaries are scattered all over the heathen and Mohammedan world, and whatever treatment from our Government is accorded to them will be regarded as the measure of its protection to others. If the house of a missionary is assaulted, his windows broken, or if he is personally assaulted, and no penalty follows and no reparation is made, the safety and honor of other Americans, whether merchants or travellers, will not be promoted by it. The peoples of half-civilized lands are very quick to make inferences, and one act of injustice unrebuked will lead to many more of increasing gravity.

The writer would urge the following reasons why government should protect missionaries and teachers against all violence, injustice, and abuse, as it would other citizens.

All other civilized nations do it. France protects her Catholic missionaries with jealous care throughout the world. Italy does the same, as does Austria. Germany is more indifferent, but her missionaries, whether Catholic or Protestant, have never appealed to her in vain. Russia has sent out but few missionaries. Those in Japan and in Palestine enjoy all the power of her diplomacy and navy for their protection. Her jealousy in this regard was one of the causes that led on to the Crimean War.

But the course of England is more worthy of our approbation. Her principle is to protect every man who is an Englishman, high or low, rich or poor, Jew or Gentile. She has no special regard for Jews, but singularly enough, two cases, the most distinguished in the half century in which England has been concerned, have been Jews.

The first, Don Pacifico, was a Jew, but an English subject residing and having business in Athens. The Greek Government took possession of his little store and plot of ground and offered him so small a compensation that he appealed to the English ambassador, who took up his case with some spirit, and demanded a very much larger compensation.

The Greek minister treated the claim with so little respect that the ambassador appealed to his Government at home. In consequence, a part of the Mediterranean squadron took possession of the Piræus until the Greek Government paid Don Pacifico about five times his original demand