

THE BIBLE A MISSIONARY BOOK.

THE Bible has a missionary purpose. There is but one God, and that one God has but one book; a book which He has designed for the human race in its entirety. (a) It is needed by all; (b) It is adapted to all, and (c) the Bible itself assures us that it is for all. As the decree of King Ahasuerus was addressed to his whole kingdom, and was to be carried into all its provinces, so this Gospel, which issues from the King of Kings, is to be borne into every part of the world. Search the Bible upon this point and it will be found permeated through and through by a missionary purpose.

2. The Bible abounds in missionary precepts. The Divine demand made upon men everywhere in the Word is first to *come and receive* the Gospel, and then to *go and give* it to others. The Church's "marching orders" are found in St. Mark xvi. 15. See also numerous other passages which make missions obligatory.

3. The Bible contains a missionary plan. See especially the Acts of the Apostles, which has been well called a "Manual of Missions." (a) The Church in all its members constituted one great Missionary Society; (b) Special agents were employed in the work; (c) The work was begun at the centres of population. The heavenly fire kindled in the great cities is to flame over all the world.

4. The Bible presents to us missionary persons. The chief biographies of the Bible are missionary biographies; its most prominent persons are its missionaries, men of a genuine missionary spirit and who did a true missionary work: Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah and Isaiah in the Old Testament, and Christ and St. Paul in the New.

5. The Bible records missionary progress. Of this progress the whole New Testament is a history. The Gospels cover the period of preparation. The Book of Acts shows us the work begun on its world-wide plan, and traces its advancement from point to point, whilst the Epistles are mainly missionary letters from the early missionaries. It reveals how, in a little more than thirty years, the Gospel was carried into almost all the then civilized world.

6. The Bible is rich in missionary promises. It is literally gemmed with them from the first to last, every part of it sparkling with their heavenly light. Seek out these promises and mark each in your Bible with a star.

7. The Bible assures us of a missionary presence and power—Zech. iv. 6; Matt. xxviii. 18, 20. Christ is in the message which missionaries are to bear, and Christ is to be in the work which they are to do.

Search the Word and mark, in addition to the above, its missionary preaching, prayers, and

praises, or its missionary sermons, supplications and songs.

A question for the reader:—If I would be a Bible Christian, must I not be a Missionary Christian, praying, working and giving for the cause of Missions?—*Rev. J. Ross in Presbyterian Review.*

"THIS WELL BUBBLES UP."

AN old Hindu, called Moses, says he had worshipped many idols and dug into many wells, washed in many streams, DRUNK even the water in which he had first washed a Brahmin's dirty feet. But nothing satisfied his soul; it was still unclean, and he thirsted still. "I at last heard of the Well of Salvation opened by Jesus Christ. Many wells I had dug in, but they were all dry, but this Well of Jesus bubbles up and up; I feel it now."

MORE than forty years ago John Rebmann, a missionary of the Church Missionary Society, announced that he had seen a snow-clad mountain in East Africa, under the equator. His statement was received with undisguised skepticism. The *Athenæum*, the old English arbiter of literature, laughed the poor man to scorn. All that Rebmann could say in deprecation of the storm of ridicule, was, "I was brought up in Switzerland and I ought to know a snow-capped peak when I see it." A very sensible and modest reply.

Now comes the humiliation of the sneering litterateur, and the justification of the humble Swiss missionary. Stanley, returning with Emin Pasha from the Victoria Nyanza, saw the range of mountains with the snow-crowned peak, and since he passed that way, Dr. Meyer, a German traveller, has ascended the ice-clad mountain, Kilima Njaro by name, and found it to be almost 20,000 feet high. The reversal of judgment must be accounted to be complete. The man of literature, self-sufficient, contemptuous and really ignorant, is discredited and humbled, and the modest missionary is "avenged of his adversary."

D'ISRAELI says that a king of Poland abdicated his throne and joined the people and became a porter to carry burdens. And some one asked him why he did so, and he replied: "Upon my honor, gentlemen, the load which I quit is by far heavier than the one you see me carry. The weightiest is but a straw when compared to that world under which I labored. I have slept more in four nights than I have during all my reign. I begin to live and be a king myself. Elect whom you choose; for me who am so well, it would be madness to return to court."