

## PREFACE.

THE CHURCH MISSIONARY ATLAS was originally planned by the Rev. W. Knight, and the first edition appeared in 1857. It contained sixteen pages of letterpress, and thirteen small maps. A second, a third, and a fourth edition followed at intervals, each with corrections and improvements. The fifth edition, brought out by General Lake in 1873, was considerably enlarged, containing sixty pages of letterpress, and twenty-three maps, of which ten were new. The sixth edition, which appeared in 1879, was entirely rewritten, some articles being adapted from drafts prepared by General Lake before his death. It contained 136 pages of letterpress, and thirty-one maps, twenty of them new.

Preparations were soon afterwards begun for a fresh edition in due time; but it was not until 1887 that any portion was ready, almost all the articles being again entirely rewritten, on a much more extensive scale. It was arranged to publish this seventh edition in Parts. Part I., containing Africa, and the Mohammedan Lands of the East, and Part II., containing India, appeared in 1887; but Part III., containing Ceylon, China, Japan, New Zealand, and North America, was not completed till 1891. The three Parts contained together 200 pages of letterpress, and thirty-one maps; but several of the maps were new, and owing to some rearrangements were more complete than the previous thirty-one. Part I., however, was rapidly getting quite out of date, owing to the advances of exploration and Missions in Africa; and therefore the issue of the whole work in one volume was deferred until that Part could be again thoroughly revised. In January, 1895, accordingly, appeared the eighth edition of Part I., with the African maps and articles brought up to date. The India, China, &c., articles and maps have now also been thoroughly revised to date, the introductory chapters and indices added, and the Map of the World according to Religions supplied.

Hearty thanks are due to several friends for much valuable help. The letterpress of the seventh (1887) edition, viz. Parts I. and II. (Africa, Mohammedan Lands, India, &c.), written by the Editor, was revised by Dr. Cust and General MacLagan. The geographical and linguistic portions of the eighth edition of Part I. were contributed or revised by Professor A. H. Keane, who also wrote the valuable article on The World. Considerable portions of the articles in Part III. were drafted by various friends: Ceylon and China by Miss C. F. Gordon-Cumming; Mid China by Archdeacon Monk, from whose writings were also taken