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## MISSIONARY WORK IN PAST AGES.

BY THE BISHOP OF NIAGARA.

**W**E have the experience of more than eighteen centuries to guide us in our study of the great question, How can the Church best bring her members to discharge the duty of sending into all the world and making disciples of all nations? The answer has been furnished not once or twice but frequently. It has not always been the same. It has been as varied as the position and circumstances in which the Church has found herself in many countries amid many nations and peoples widely differing from each other, during the long centuries

of the Christian era. It is exceedingly difficult to realize the vast difference between the positions occupied by the Church at various periods. At one time she has stood with the poorest and weakest classes in society; wielding no more influence than they did; obliged to take refuge with them in dens and caves; offering in secret their worship to the King of kings, and ministering His gifts and graces and consolations to them. She has, too, shared the Monarch's throne and occupied the highest place, with all its power and influence at her disposal.

Only in times of coldness and worldliness and spiritual deadness has she failed to extend herself and to bring up hardy sons ready to deny all and