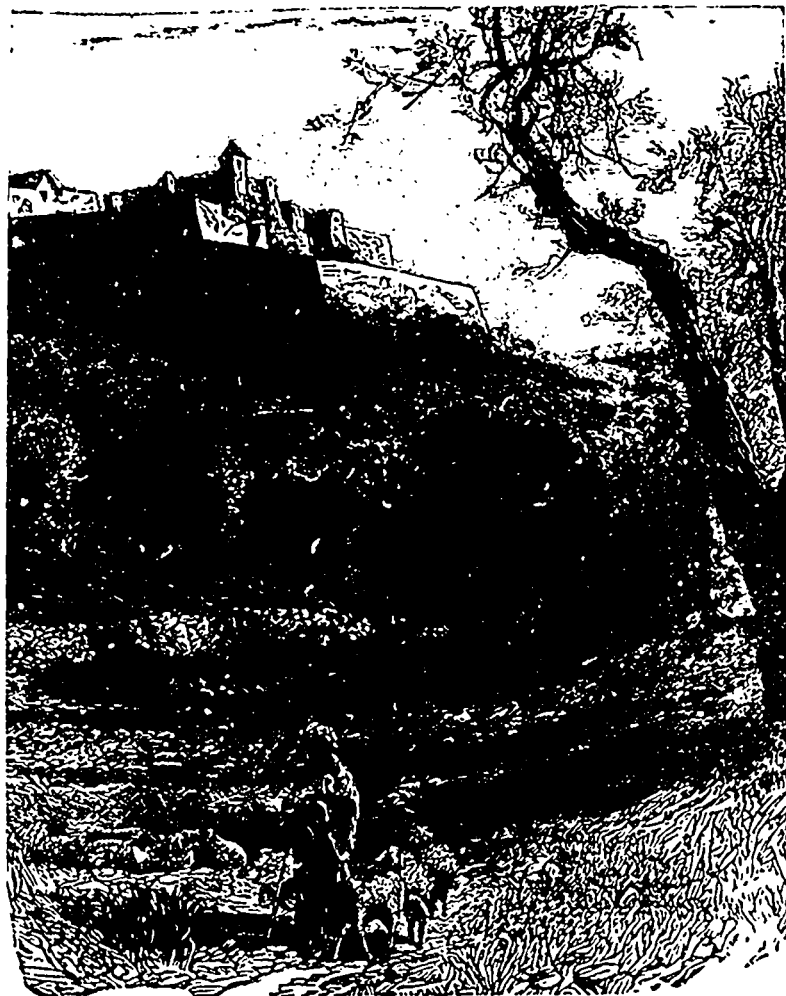




CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, BETHLEHEM.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INCREASING MISSIONARY INTEREST.

FROM THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS.

THE Committee to devise plans to deepen the interest of the members of the Church in missionary work, respectfully report:

MISSION OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING
PEOPLES.

All the signs of the times indicate that, in the providence of God, the English-speaking races are called to evangelize the world. What the first Christians did for the unbelieving peoples of their day we are bound to do for the heathenism, whether at home or abroad, of our own time.

And what did they do? Every Christian was a missionary wherever he went. The Christian slave told his brother slave of the Saviour whom he had learned to love. The Christian soldier told his

companion in arms of the great Captain under whose banner he had enlisted. The converted publican convinced his fellow of the reality of his faith by the new life which he was living. The Pharisee that was, became the preacher of a better righteousness than he had ever before known. The Churches as they were gathered became each a centre of Christian influence sounding out the good news of a Saviour's love. The Apostles and Deacons went everywhere preaching the Word. To make Christ known to perishing souls was their controlling purpose. The difficulties in their way were far greater than those which confront us. Against them were arrayed the prejudice of the Jews, the craft and corruption of heathenism, the bitter hostility of the Roman Empire. But their simple faith and earnest love and determined zeal conquered all. Everywhere it went, the early Christian Church had to force its way against opposition. But now the whole world lies open for the entering in of the willing feet

of the heralds of the Cross. We are receiving unto ourselves the people of every tongue and clime and kin. We are in the forefront of the nations. The commerce and wealth of the world are largely in our hands. Our ships sail every sea. Our products are in every habitation of men. In the centre of the Dark Continent, in the regions of perpetual ice, in the decaying powers of the old world, and in the swiftly growing cities of the new, our enterprise is felt, and our enthusiasm wakens dormant powers into activity. Along what lines shall that development be? Shall it be under the corrupting influence of a materialistic civilization, or shall it be under the influence of the Gospel of Christ, through the power of an endless life?

This awful responsibility rests upon us. Under God we are to determine what that future shall be. This work has been committed to the Church by our Divine Lord, and He will hold us to a strict