

The Mission Crisis.

MISSIONS NO FAILURE.

The following facts from recent Missionary literature show how abundantly successful the Missions of the Church are. We trust that the perusal of them may encourage and stimulate those who are earnestly engaged in this work, and forever silence the oft-repeated, but wholly ungrounded assertion that modern Missions are a failure. Canon Farrar in a sermon published not long ago, has this remarkable paragraph :—

For what, in a few words, is the history of the Christian propaganda? It began with one hundred and twenty poor Galileans, secretly gathered in an upper room, and preaching a Messiah crucified between two robbers. What does it mean to-day? It means to-day the faith of some three hundred millions of all the greatest and the noblest of the human race. That despised faith conquered the Romans, it conquered barbarian, it conquered nearly the whole civilised world of ancient days. And the total result is that whereas at the beginning of the fourth century after Christ, probably only one man out of every one hundred and fifty in the human race was a Christian, now it is probable that were the whole human race to sweep past us in its long yet brief procession between the darkness of the two eternities, nearly one in every three would own the Holy

Name by which we are called. That is the bright and the encouraging side. The dark and mysterious side, the side which proves that it is part of God's providence for man to do his work for man, and that man too commonly and too shamefully neglects it, is that if we number the whole living mass of the children of men roughly at thirteen hundred millions, it is reckoned that one-eighth of those are still fetish-worshippers; that one hundred and sixty millions are Brahmins; that one hundred and fifty millions are Mohammedans; that five hundred millions are Buddhists; that in spite of all the splendid work which has been done, in spite of the vast growth of Christianity in Japan, in Meianaesia, in New Zealand, in Fiji, in Hindostan, in China in North and South America--from the bleak coasts of Hudson's Bay to the rain-swept desolation of Tierra del Fuego, in spite of the fact that this our Victorian era has been the most splendid era in the re-awakening of missionary enterprise since time began, yet from the natural growth of population the number of heathen is probably increasing and not decreasing in the world. If we feel any love for our brother man for whom Christ died, if we attach any value to the "day-spring from on high" which has dawned on us, if there be in our heart the faintest