

souls living in darkness and going down to deeper, dense darkness.

An important question here presents itself, why did the gospel of Christ after the second and third centuries cease to make rapid progress? Why did preaching cease to make converts and to persuade men? Did the gospel lose its power, did it cease to be the power of God unto salvation? No! the gospel was the same. God was the same, and the necessities of men were the same but the professed followers of Christ lost their faith, their zeal and their earnestness, and instead of pointing perishing souls to Christ they pointed them to rites and ceremonies to saints and relics. The friendship of the world proved more injurious than its enmity and opposition. To gain the favor of the world concessions were made, innovations were permitted, corruption of doctrine was allowed, till at length the Church of the day was little better than "baptized paganism."

Without stopping to trace the progress of Christianity from that date to the present, it is sufficient to say that we live in an age of Missionary work. The growing life of the church manifests itself in Christian effort among the heathen. It is taken for granted now that a Church which has no agents in foreign fields is dead or dying. A Church is judged now, not by its creed and profession, not by its theology and orthodoxy, not by the learning and talents of its ministers, not by its high sounding titles and pretended claims to apostolic succession, but by the work which it is doing for Christ and for the souls of men. The tree is known by the fruit.

Germany is to-day pre-eminently the land of schools and colleges, of science and philosophy, of theological discussion, but the dominant faith of Germany to-day is doing almost nothing in the great work of evangelization. In the land in which Luther stormed against Popery and Papalists and fought so bravely for the grand old doctrine of justification by faith little is done in the great work of soul saving either at home or abroad. The evangelical divine, Christlieb, of Bonn, in his work on "Modern Doubt and Christian Belief" says "There are large parishes in Berlin and Hamburg where according to recent statistics, only from one to two per cent. of the population are regular Church-goers. Elsewhere it is somewhat better. But speaking of Germany in general, we may say that in the majority of cases it is far lower." We are not surprised to find the same writer

make the following statement. "I myself have spoken to several highly esteemed professors in various universities, who know as good as nothing about missions, and who were much astonished to hear from me that Christianity was spreading and had even yet its martyrs." A different state of matters, however, is found in parts of Germany.

In turning to Britain and America we find all the Churches engaged in Foreign Mission work. Some are doing more than others; the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland takes the lead. The community of Moravian Brethren which from the beginning was a Missionary Church, is alone able to dispute the first place with the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland. The Moravian Brethren, of whom there are in Europe and America only about 20,000 grown up members raise for Missionary purposes about \$1.20 yearly per adult.

Looking at the work accomplished in the foreign fields we see wonderful progress made. Converts from heathenism not now counted by ones and twos, but by hundreds and thousands. At close of the last century there were only seven Protestant Missionary Societies properly so called, and of these only three (the Propagation Society which labored chiefly among English Colonists, the Halle, Danish and the Moravian) had been at work for the greater part of the century. To-day the seven have in Europe and America alone, become seventy. At the beginning of this century the number of male missionaries in the field, supported by the seven Societies amounted to 170, of whom 100 were connected with the Moravians alone. Today there are employed about 2500 ordained European and Americans; hundreds of ordained native preachers, upward of 23,000 native assistants, catechists, exclusive of the countless female missionaries, lay-helpers, &c.

Eighty years ago there were about 50,000 heathen converts under the care of Protestants. today the Converts may be put down at not less than 1,650,000. Reference might be made to some special fields of labor and many facts advanced to prove the truthfulness of Paul's words. "The Gospel is the power of God unto Salvation." The story of Dr. McKay's work in Formosa reads like a chapter in the book of Acts. Miss Gordon Cumming who paid a visit of four or five years in Fiji has recently published two volumes in which she gives an impartial and full account of the work of the Wesleyan Missionaries there. Space will permit of