

MISSION FACTS.

"For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

THERE is no uncertainty therefore as to the ultimate success of the evangelization of the world. There may be things hard to understand in connection with the work, there may be many discouragements and apparent failures and defeats, but the end which God has in view shall certainly be accomplished. That is the grand fact we should ever have before our minds. The work is God's. When Mr. Morrison was going to China, a scoffer asked him if he expected to convert the Chinese Empire. He replied, "No, I expect God will." Our Saviour in giving the Great Commission gave these words as assurance of success. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and disciple all nations."

Within the present century this power has been exerted in a most wonderful manner for the world's evangelization. The missionary spirit is now so active and wide-spread it is difficult for us to conceive that it is all the growth of the century in which we live.

One hundred years has not yet passed since the first "Society for Propagating the Gospel among the heathen" was organized. Then, the church was asleep on missions. The general assembly of the Scotch Church pronounced the idea of sending missionaries to the heathen "fanatical and absurd, dangerous and revolutionary." In America it was characterized as "visionary and impracticable."

Then, the nations and governments of the earth were opposed to missions. Then educated men could not be induced to become missionaries, the work looked so dangerous and hopeless. But behold what the power of the Lord hath accomplished! To-day the whole church is animated with the missionary spirit, and pulsating with missionary life. Churches that then opposed, now lead the van. To-day there are nearly 200 Protestant Foreign Missionary Societies. Now we have upward of 7,000 missionaries in foreign fields; and far more than the church is able to send are ready to go into heathen lands.

In Boston August 29th. a large meeting was held on the occasion of 49 missionaries setting out for different parts of the world,