

Africa ; and in this Abbey, at this very day, not even the grave of Newton is dearer to thousands of visitors than the grave of the Glasgow cotton-piecer, David Livingstone, who, in the burning heat of that dark continent, died with black faces around him, far from all civilized life.

To sneer at missionaries as so cheap, and their work as so easy to do, has always been the fashion of libertines, and cynics, and worldlings. A living duke has ventured to assure us that missions are an organized hypocrisy and a deplorable failure. The charge of hypocrisy deserves only a smile of disdain ; the charge of failure, an absolute contradiction.

So far from having failed, there is no work of God which has received so absolute, so unprecedented, so disproportionate a blessing. In 1701 there were not twenty English clergymen in foreign lands ; since then, counting the American Church, which was the first-fruits of its efforts, the English Church has a hundred and thirty-eight bishops, more than five thousand clergy, more than two millions in her communion, and the Gospel preached in foreign lands in twenty times as many languages as were spoken at Pentecost. Three centuries after Christ there were but ten millions of Christians ; now there are more than four hundred and fifty millions of Christians. A century ago, if all the human race had passed before you in a long procession, only one in five would have been a Christian ; if they were to pass in procession before you now, nearly one in every two would be a Christian. In India the census shows us that Christians are at this moment increasing every decade by 86 per cent., and that though the number of missionaries, compared to the total population, is much as if you had four or five clergymen alone to teach the whole of London. To talk of missions as a failure is to talk at once like an ignorant and faithless man.

Let me, as swiftly as I possibly can, give you one or two reasons why missions are specially incumbent at this moment upon this nation.

First, they are incumbent on us because we owe to them immeasurable benefits. I throw in without estimate all that missions have done for the cause of science, though there is scarcely one single science that does not owe to them an immense advance, and though this alone would amply repay what has been spent on them ; I throw in without estimate all that they have done for the cause of civilization, though not less a witness than Charles Darwin said that the lesson of the missionary was the enchanter's wand ; I throw in without estimate all that they have done for the diminution of human misery, the suppression of war, the spread of commerce, the abolition of execrable cruelties, though cannibalism, and suttee, and infanticide have disappeared before them : but among other little trifles, I say it is to missions you owe the colonization of America and the safety of your Indian Empire. As for America, missions were prominent in the hearts of the Pilgrim Fathers. The colony of Plymouth was a missionary colony, and is so to this day. On the seal of the charter of the great State of Massachusetts you may see the device which they adopted in 1629—the device of an Indian standing erect with an arrow in his hand, and the motto, "Come over and help us."

And missions, as they caused for you the colonization of America, saved for you the British Empire in India. "It is Christ," says Keshub Chunder Sen—and you could have no more unprejudiced witness—"and not the