

Bear the Message Onward.

Mark xvi: 15.

Bear the message onward
 Spread it far and wide;
 Let the distant heathen
 Know that Jesus died;
 Died that God might justly
 Vilest sin forgive;
 Died that through His merit,
 Guilty men might live.

Bear the message onward
 Dare ye keep it back?
 See those sin-bound millions,
 Death is on their track;
 Wretchedness surrounds them,
 Woe succeeds to woe;
 Listen, friends of Jesus,
 Will you leave them so?

Bear the message onward
 Over land and sea,
 Nothing save the gospel
 Makes man noble, free.
 Spread, O spread the G-ings,
 Fought with endless bliss,
 Kings and queens might covet
 Work so grand as this.

Bear the message onward
 Farther, faster yet,
 Quickly 'ere in darkness
 This day's sun shall set.
 Quickly ' judgment hasteneth;
 Men are dying fast,
 How can you, if heedless,
 Meet your God at last?

Bear the message onward,
 Make the Saviour known,
 Heed the royal mandate
 Uttered from the throne,
 Loving hearts should hear it,
 Ransomed souls obey,
 Each and all must labor
 While 'tis called to day.

Bear the message onward
 Speed the word with prayer,
 You must do your duty
 Let who will forbear,
 Weary not in service,
 Let not courage die,
 Doubt not, God is faithful,
 Fear not, help is nigh.

Bear the message onward
 'Tis so grandly true:
 Wheresoe'er it cometh
 Eden blooms anew,
 Work performed for Jesus
 Cannot go unblest:
 Not till life is ended,
 Must God's servants rest.

Bear the message onward
 Speak it forth with power,
 Let it reach fresh regions
 Every passing hour,
 Human souls outvalued
 Coronets empearled;
 Pause not till the message
 Vibrates through the world.

God's Everlasting Sign.

THE INDIRECT INFLUENCE OF THE GOSPEL.

BY ARTHUR T. PIERSON, D.D.

We will give here a rapid glance at the indirect influences of the Gospel. Sir Bartle Frere has said, "Wherever the Gospel has gone, it has promoted the dignity of labor, the sanctity of marriage, and the brotherhood of man." Where it does not convert, it checks and controls; where it does not renew, it refines; where it does not sanctify, it softens and subdues. Resultant motion is the diagonal of direction followed by a body on which two forces act at right angles. So missions, acting in an opposite direction from Paganism modify and change even the society they do not wholly transform.

Statistics, therefore, rather understate than overstate results, which cannot be estimated numerically. Each church and missionary station represents a *community*, closely identified with Christianity, a centre of light, radiating holy influence on every side. Two million converts represent two hundred million, drawn into more or less sympathy with the Christian faith and life, confronted with the standing proofs of the superiority of Christian teaching, individual character and family life.

All this is like the honeycombing of rocks at Hell-gate preparatory to the sudden and wide-spread destruction of those obstacles to navigation; pagan society, with its false faiths and iniquitous customs, is being undermined, and, as Sheshadrai says, "God works according to a higher arithmetic of His own." It will be no surprising thing, if, in His good time, all India shall suddenly be evangelized, and it shall then be seen there, as elsewhere, that in the absence of positive and visible results, the preparation has been going on for a final and more glorious transformation.

I am absolutely overwhelmed with the abundance of testimony, gleaned from even pagan or semi-pagan sources, and frank confessions of the pervading influence of the Gospel. It is permeating and penetrating the whole society of heathendom. It is becoming embedded and embosomed in the very soil of society, but not embalmed, for it is a living seed and not a dead body.

Let me give a few excerpts out of hundreds, on which I am prepared to lay my hand.

Some years since, that wonderful man, Chunder Sen, the Prophet of the Brahma Somaj, was obliged to acknowledge that "the spirit of Christianity has already pervaded the whole atmosphere of Indian society; and we breathe, think, feel, and move in a Christian atmosphere. Native society is being roused, enlightened, and reformed under the influence of Christianity." And, in a speech at Calcutta, he said, "Our hearts are touched, conquered, overcome, by a higher Power; and this power is *Christ Christ*, not the British Government, rules India!"

"No one but Christ has deserved the precious diadem of the Indian Crown, and he will have it. . . . It is no longer a problem. For myself, I can say I feel no misgivings. I fully believe Christ has come into India, and has taken possession of India's heart. Some say India will be Christ's; but it is not yet. . . . I hate the idea of conjugating Christ's success here in the future tense: it is a thing already achieved. I say emphatically that the Spirit of Christ has gone into the depths of India's heart. I declare that the sanctifying and civilizing influence of Christ's life and teachings are wonders in this land."

And yet India is the Malakoff of missions; the most difficult of all fields in which to develop a Christian pro-