

turned southward, following Magellan and De Gama. In 1577-79 Drake made the circuit of the globe *via* Cape Horn, traversing the East Indian Archipelago and the Indian Ocean; Stephens penetrated the region of the Spice Islands, 1579-82 by way of the Cape of Good Hope, and Cavendish followed in 1586. The British East India Company was formed in 1598-1603 under a charter given by King William III., and at once sent out the first of a long succession of fleets to trade and to fight, as well as to found colonies. Almost a century followed of warfare with the Dutch for a share of the island and of the traffic in cloves, cinnamon, and pepper. In 1612 a lodgment was made in India at Surat, whose significance for British dominion and for the spread of the Gospel did not in the least appear until generations had passed. During all these years English Christians did nothing whatever for the introduction of the Gospel into Southern Asia, and even though in the charter of their great Company it was expressly required that a plentiful supply of chaplains be maintained at all the stations, and it was made obligatory upon these to learn the language, and to give religious instruction to at least such of the natives as were in the Company's employ.

And, in truth, the churches were kept busy at home with vital struggles over kingcraft and episcopacy, or in behalf of sacred liberty both civil and religious. And what slight stock of evangelizing fervor they possessed was expended upon the colonies in the New World.

In the history of modern missions Jamestown and Plymouth will always remain words to conjure with, and the dates 1607 and 1620 will rank with the few which mark the beginning of eras, since they stand for the momentous founding of this great Christian nation. In all the early voyages to America under the lead of Raleigh and others, the conversion of the aborigines received a mention. Upon the seal of the Massachusetts colony was represented an Indian with extended arms, and the motto, "Come over and help us." As early as 1636 Plymouth took legislative action looking to the salvation of the pagans living near by. In 1644 the General Court at Boston ordered the county courts "to have the resident Indians instructed in the knowledge and worship of God," and thus became, in the phrase of a competent historian, "the first missionary society of Protestant Christendom." In 1642 the Mayhews began their apostolic labors upon Martha's Vineyard and neighboring islands, and in 1646 Eliot preached his first sermon to the red men in their own tongue, and by 1663 he had published his Indian Bible. By the end of the century several thousands had become Christian in name, and thirty churches had been gathered. It was in order to aid the New England colonists in these labors of love that twelve ministers petitioned Parliament, and as a result, in 1649, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England was chartered, and for years substantial financial succor was bestowed. There were a few Englishmen of eminence, in that generation, of the spirit and deeds of Robert Boyle, who for thirty years was president of this society, and contributed £300