

# THE MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD.

VOL. XIII. No. 10.—*Old Series.*—OCTOBER.—VOL. III. No. 10.—*New Series.*

## I.—LITERATURE OF MISSIONS.

### CARDINAL LAVIGERIE AND HIS ANTI-SLAVERY WORK.

BY REV. J. C. BRACQ, PHILADELPHIA.

The statements of both the colleagues and the opponents of Cardinal Lavigerie remind us that mankind always inclines to exaggerate the qualities or the vices of men before it is willing to bestow upon them admiration or contempt. The friends and the foes of the Cardinal have each from their own standpoint enlarged upon his merits and demerits, and overrated or minimized the importance of the services which he has rendered to the anti-slavery cause. Their utterances have much value, as they are mutually corrective. We are not, however, left to these partisans for our information on the Cardinal and his anti-slavery work. The *Grey Book*, prepared for the Conference of Brussels, gives us an impartial *résumé* of what had been done to destroy slavery prior to the conference. Mgr. Lavigerie has favored us with a volume of documents,\* giving not only his own estimate of his work, but also the means of ascertaining the measure of the *Œuvre Antiesclavagiste* and of the man whose name is so intimately associated with it. The historical part of the documents is decidedly unfair to the world at large in relation to its share of efforts for African emancipation. The work of Wilberforce, of Granville-Sharp, of Zachary Macaulay, of Buxton, of Livingstone, of Stanley, of Gordon, of the Anti-Slavery Society of England, the appeals of Englishmen before the Parliament, the patient negotiations of the Powers with Eastern potentates, the work of Protestant missionaries whose eye-witness reports stirred their respective countries—all this is overlooked; or, if referred to, has but an incidental or minifying allusion. The Cardinal speaks too disdainfully of the work of his predecessors, and too triumphantly of his own. He mentions, indeed, the Congress of Vienna in 1815, the Conference of Verona in 1822, the Congress of Berlin in 1864; but he says that up to this time “everything remained in the official world.” Then he adds: “It is true that the first explorers, and particularly Livingstone and Stanley, had begun to inspire learned societies and chancelleries with a feeling of horror and pity which the evils of Africa could but excite. The missionaries in their turn, the

\* Documents sur la Fondation de l'Œuvre Antiesclavagiste.