

The first result of its scrutiny is to bring out certain fundamental differences in the problem of proselytism at the beginning and at the close of the period under its review. A hundred years ago the sense of the Churches, the policy of Parliament, the instinct of self-preservation among the Englishmen who were doing England's work in distant lands, were all arrayed against the missionary idea.

The missionaries had to encounter not less hostile, and certainly better founded, prejudices among the non-Christian people to whom they went, for until a century ago the white man had brought no blessing to the darker nations of the earth. During three hundred years he had been the despoiler, the enslaver, the exterminator of the simpler races. . . . In India, which was destined to be the chief field of missionary labor, the power had passed to the English without the sense of responsibility for using their power aright. During a whole generation the natives had learned to regard us as a people whose arms it was impossible to resist, and to whose mercy it was useless to appeal.

But just before the beginning of the century of missionary labor commemorated last month, Englishmen at home had grown alive to the wrongs which were being done in their name. And with this awakening of the political conscience of England, the religious conscience of England also awoke. At that time and ever since the missionary impulse has been intimately associated with the national resolve to act rightly by the people who have come under our sway. During a hundred years, the missionaries have marched in the van of the noblest movements of England. The missionary voice has uniformly expressed the moral sense of the nation. It is because I recognize in missionary work an expiation of national wrong-doing in the past, and an aid to national right-doing in the future, because I honestly believe that the missionary instinct forms the necessary spiritual complement of the aggressive genius of our English race that I, a plain secular person, venture in this Review to address persons like myself.

The nation at large recognizes with increasing liberality, if not with assured confidence, the claims of missionary effort. Carey's collection of £13, 2s., 6d. with which "to convert the