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THE Christian world of to-day is in great measure co-extensive with the spread of the Christian faith in all nations. In Europe, America, and Australia, Christianity is almost without competitors. The Dark Continent is fringed round with Christian communities carrying the banner of the Cross ever deeper into its interior. Asia, and the distant isles which "waited for His Law," hear more fully day by day the Gospel of Christ, and the heathen millions of the East are brought ever more and more within touch of a power which shall at length win their allegiance, when the vision of Isaiah shall be fully realized: "Lift up thine eyes round about and see; all they (the Gentiles) gather themselves together, they come to thee, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee."

How has all this come about? The annals of the civilized world for the last eighteen centuries will furnish an answer. The history of the spread of the Christian faith, from its humble beginnings in Jerusalem until the present day, may be regarded as furnishing a striking evidence of God's ruling providence in the world—an evidence which, while it strengthens our faith, must invigorate at the same time our hope of the ultimate and universal triumph of the Gospel. Predicted by prophecy, this expansion has been brought about by movements which, seeming sometimes to be purely secular in their issues, have at length been attended by such spiritual results as to impress one with the conviction that the vicissitudes of the Church and the world are leading to one great and definite end.

This Atlas is intended to indicate some of the stages of that expansion, and at the same time to show briefly the inter-dependence of ecclesiastical and secular history.

The information given on the maps has been necessarily limited by their size and number; but the main features of the spread of the Christian faith have been, it is hoped, broadly traced, and the allied changes in political geography sufficiently depicted for the end aimed at.

Original authorities have been resorted to as far as possible, and the most recent sources of information have been also utilized. The documents and authors quoted are made sufficiently clear in the text, and there is, therefore, no need to give a list here. The coloured maps are based in part upon those of Wiltsch and of Spruner-Menke. Poole's *Historical Atlas of Modern Europe* has also been consulted—as far as it has appeared. Thanks are due to the Church Missionary Society and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for their kindness in allowing certain sketch-maps to be reproduced in the text.

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