

hearts of stone it has to win; the general diffusion of Christianity may not be argued with logical precision by the mathematician, who must have figures and data to command his conclusion, and encourage his prospects; but to a sincere believer in the ever blessed Gospel, the testimony of the Lord is sure. "He shall have the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession," for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it; and the feeblest utterances of the Divine are more sublimely assuring than all the figures mathematical calculation could adduce. But the recent history of Christianity, while one of the best evidences of its Divinity, one of the noblest tributes to its power, is one of the surest guarantees of its ultimate conquest. Not merely the past decade, but the past year has stood forth, with distinctive prominence, as an epoch in the history and spread of Christian missions. Viewed in a local and restrictive sense, we may see little to encourage; but viewed in a general and world-wide sense, we see everything to encourage. Already the darkness and misery which have so long brooded over the earth, is beginning to disappear; and the clouds, so stormful and portentous, are moving surely away, fringed with amber and gold; and the long anticipated echo may be heard, "'The morning cometh,' the dry valley hath felt the passing of the healing winds; the dead bones the presence of the resuscitating life; the moral charnel house, the kiss of the immortality that walks freely among the tombs." It is but a few years since a large part of the inhabited globe was absolutely closed against the missionary of the cross. Missionaries could not so much as enter most of the countries of the old world, without incurring either certain death, or the most imminent risk of it; but now, it may be said without exaggeration, that the whole world is opened wide to the bearers of the gospel message. We know not that there is, at this hour, a single portion of the globe wholly inaccessible to the enlightened and prudent missionary, unless it is that centre of civil despotism, the City of Rome; where the so-called, infallible head of the real church, presents you with the only instance of absolute intolerance toward the christian faith, to be found on the face of the earth to-day. The terrible massacre carried forward by the infatuated Hauhaus, in New Zealand, and the ferocious persecutions in China, may be pointed to as expressive of the stern rejection of the Gospel in those countries; but it is more properly expressive of the infatuation and wickedness of certain lawless tribes, that are still under the power of a degraded and depraved priesthood. He who sits as governor among the nations, is silently, but surely, laying a train for mighty movements in time to come. He is fast inclining even his enemies, from the most opposite motives, to permit and invite the gospel into their territory. Never before was so large

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