

THE MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD.

Vol. XII. No. 9.—*Old Series.*——SEPTEMBER.——Vol. II. No. 9.—*New Series.*

I.—LITERATURE OF MISSIONS.

THE WALDENSIANS AND THEIR BI-CENTENNIAL.

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“Lux lucet in tenebris.”

ON the 16th of August, 1889, the Waldensians of Italy and their friends throughout the world will celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the return of the exiled Vaudois to their homes in the Alpine valleys of Piedmont. That heroic episode finds its parallel in few, if in any, of the religious struggles since times apostolic. Shrouded from view as were the beginnings of this body of reformers, the brilliant action of patriotism and faith, which we now celebrate, stands out as the most obvious landmark in the history of that church. It will be interesting and profitable to briefly run over the incidents preceding this event, that we may fully grasp its bearings on subsequent affairs.

As the tourist stands beside the old Capuchin monastery on the hills to the east of Turin, a magnificent panorama is spread out before him. At his feet rush the green waters of the Po. Just across is the city that can boast of a Cavour, and which may be truly called the nurse of modern Italy. Beyond the regular squares of the old capital of the kingdom of Sardinia stretch the farm lands, twenty miles away to the feet of the Cottian Alps. Then the eye rises up through the green of the foot-hills to the gray of the high pasture land, and on up the great gorges to the snow line, then up and up the glistening heights until the sharp peaks cut the azure blue. Directly to the west Mont Cenis may be picked out among the jumble of mountains, and the course of the river Dora may be traced. To the southwest the eye turns instinctively to Monte Viso, that throws up its sharp point into the sky, like some glittering cathedral spire, flashing in the morning sun. With a little care you are able to trace three valleys lying at the foot of the mountains directly between yourself and Monte Viso—the valleys of Lucerne, Perouse and St. Martin, called technically vallees Vaudoises. Here the Waldensians have been at home for centuries. The valley of Angrogna, with which their name has been especially connected, is but a branch of the Lucerne valley, and pours its stream into the Pellice just below the crag of Casteluzzo and in the mountain vantage of Torre