

The Mission Crisis.

THE INTERNATIONAL FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONFERENCE,

LONDON, ENG., JUNE 9TH TO 19TH, 1888.

THIS conference was remarkable in all respects. It was held in the greatest city of the world, and in the very heart of it—in Exeter Hall—amid the din and roar of the Strand. During ten successive days and nights thousands upon thousands assembled there to speak and to hear of the progress of the Kingdom of God among the heathen.

It was appropriate that the results of gospel effort for a century should be considered at the centre of the Christian world. Everything in that Metropolitan city, with its five million souls—a number equal to the entire population of Canada—is upon a gigantic scale. Vice and virtue, piety and godlessness, learning and ignorance, riches and poverty, activity and indolence, courage and cowardice, benevolence and meanness, Christian faith and heartless scepticism—all reach their fullest growth in London. And this International Conference was certainly the grandest assembly of foreign missionaries and their friends ever convened.

It was composed of about 1500 members, missionaries and representative delegates from Protestant churches, and from one hundred and thirty different missionary societies. These came from all parts of the world—from the east and the west, the north and the south—forming one grand sacramental host of godly men and women of diverse creeds, nationalities, degrees of culture and modes of thought—the like of which I can scarcely ever hope to see again. Their multitudinous dialects, varied casts of countenance, and yet withal their unity of spirit and earnest purpose forcibly reminded one of the great meeting in Jerusalem, nearly nineteen centuries ago, which inaugurated Christian missions, and in which there were gathered together “devout men out of every nation under heaven.”

We had present, not weak visionaries dreaming over barren theories, but strong practical men and women wholly consecrated to the