

PREFACE

THE six chapters in this volume comprise the Duff Missionary Lectures delivered in Scotland on the foundation established by William Pirie Duff, Esq., in memory of his father, Alexander Duff. It was an honour to be charged with any work associated with that great name. Memories still exist in America of a visit from the famous missionary in 1854, when under his leadership a missionary conference was held in New York City from which deep and abiding influences remain with us to this day. The printed reports of the conference leave Dr. Duff's public address uncompleted. The reporter was so carried away that no record was made of the rushing torrent of eloquence with which it closed. But above a sense of wonder at his gift of convincing and persuasive speech, Alexander Duff left upon those who heard him in America, as he left upon the world, the impress of his supreme devotion to a supreme cause. I shall be grateful if through these lectures any one may be led to recognise as supreme the cause which Duff served, and to give his life to it with some small measure of Duff's devotion.

With the venture of such a prayer I asked the hearers of these lectures and now ask the reader to consider some of the problems of modern missions under the general theme of Christianity and the Nations, looking first at the missionary duty and motives, secondly at the missionary aim and methods, thirdly at the three great sets of problems involved in the relations of missions (1) to the new national Churches which they found, (2) to politics, and (3) to the non-Christian religions, and lastly at the relation of the missionary movement to the attainment of our hopes of a united Church and a united humanity.

The lectures were written on steamships while skirting the coasts of South America on a visit to the mission work in the