

Band and all the mothers in our Woman's Missionary Society from the unwisdom, the utter folly of educating their children for the world—in cultivating a taste for those things that lead into temptation and away from God. They that sow thus shall reap in tears. Alas! that all the mothers do not see the full significance and the blessed benefits of such a union of mothers. Some grandmothers have asked to join this Band, that they may unite with the mothers in prayer for unconverted children. No one is excluded. If every Christian mother in our Church would become fully imbued with this spirit, missionary work at home and abroad would receive an impetus that would result in the extension of work in every direction, and in the salvation of many, many souls.

### THE DIVINE FORCE IN MISSIONS.

By REV. ALEXANDER MCKENZIE, D.D.

[The following brief extracts are taken from a volume of Lowell Lectures just issued by Lumsden, Wolff & Co., Boston, entitled *The Divine Force in the Life of the World*. The lectures were delivered by Dr. McKenzie before the Lowell Institute in one of its regular courses, and attracted great attention at the time. In book form they will constitute a notable contribution to the defense of Christianity. The fact that there is a divine force in the life of the world, and that it is to Christianity that the world must look if it is to find help through religion, is most strikingly presented. Had we space we should gladly give larger quotations, but we select here a few passages bearing directly upon foreign missions, taken from the chapter on "The Cause of Christ in the Hands of Men."]

Can we estimate the Christian forces? Every Christian is a force in the service of Christ. It is the condition of discipleship. By him others are to be won, and every man who is won is a new soldier of the Cross. It means this to be a Christian, as Christ bestows the name. The order is this: the Creator; the Son of Man with new life for men; multitudes of Christians in life and under the sway of the Holy Spirit to give life to the world. There are certain organizations of Christ's men which are to be regarded. There are churches, colleges, libraries, hospitals, brotherhoods, charities, in almost endless variety. The work for the world goes on, sometimes with observation and sometimes in secret. The hope which rules is unabated. It cannot be removed until faith vanishes away. After years in the wilderness the churches have found themselves, and have regained the meaning of their life. Figures easily slip from the mind, but I use them to give some impression of the forces now engaged in this part of the service of Christ. The statistics are recent, but no longer exact. There are eleven thousand six hundred and fifty-nine men and women who are by special appointment teaching the good news of God in countries which are not their own. There are sixty-four thousand two hundred and ninety-nine who are reported as native laborers, that is, persons who have themselves been taught, and are, in their turn, teaching their countrymen. The annual income of the voluntary associations which direct this enterprise is nearly thirteen million dollars.

Let it be remarked that this money is cheerfully given without thought of return, and to those who have never been seen by the givers; to people of strange lands, whose history and ways of life are separate from ours; as the free will offering of faith in Christ and his teaching, in the glad obedience of his command; and that those who have given their lives to this service, becoming exiles from country and home, and the things we

value most, have done it in their devotion to him, their knowledge of his truth, their experience of his love, their longing to have his name and grace made a blessing in all the earth. It is a splendid testimony to the reality of the Christian life.

The roll of our thirty-six hundred American missionaries is a list of noblemen. They are college men, select men, who could fill the places here quite as well as those who stay at home. With them are women of high attainment, of beautiful culture, of serene courage. They are good men and women, and good natured; able to work, and able to work with others; with a conception of their enterprise which is a constant inspiration. No civil service rules are so strict as those under which these Christians pass. It is not to learn their belief more than their health, and disposition, and desire. It must be clear that they understand themselves, and are fitted to carry out the purpose of those who send them and support them. It is a serious matter to send missionaries abroad, to sustain them while they learn a strange language, and to invest a large hope in them, and those who do this have a right to know whom they are taking into partnership. The entire management of this enterprise is in the hands of strong men, men of business, lawyers, clergymen, and of women, wise to plan, skillful to discern, patient and brave; who bring all their wisdom to bear upon the religious, social, and financial questions which press upon them. The dignity of the work is in keeping with its importance. It is impossible to give results with an approach to fulness; they are of inferior moment while the work is steadily going on. But I find that the Protestant societies count up four thousand six hundred and ninety-four mission stations with fifteen thousand two hundred outstations, over a million communicants, and nearly a million persons under instruction. What is sought is that every person in the world shall know Christ and receive his help; shall learn of him to know God, to do his will, to live in his favor, to have eternal life which can readily be extended to the world that comes next. The design is broad. It is not to seize a savage and snatch him from endless death; but to find the savage, or the sage, and tell him, what no man knows till he is told, at home or abroad, that the love of God is in the earth seeking its own, that it may give them a right spirit and persuade them into eternal life, which is the gift of love.

This Christian enterprise recognizes whatever good it finds, whatever of truth and faith, and making the most of this, in an economical spirit, adds to it more truth, higher truth, the Truth. These men have not consecrated themselves to a wearisome failure, and they intend to deserve the success for which they strive.

They know what they believe, and they believe it is worth any man's knowing. They work rationally and discreetly. It is not proposed to transplant our Western system of thought and of life, and our institutions as they have been made for ourselves; but, in their own language, to present the Son of Man, and to persuade them to acknowledge Him as Master and Lord; and to make their own philosophy and set up their own organizations, and to order their affairs after their own judgment. New England Christians are very well here. But we cannot expect the Chinaman to become a New Englander. Let him retain his Oriental habit of mind and hold it in allegiance to the one Teacher. The design is to build up a kingdom on the earth, including all nations and peoples, where the will of God shall be done as it is in heaven.