

in tracing the reasons for the deficiency in quantity of success than in glorifying the modicum which has been attained. The cause it advocates has vanquished the obstructions interposed at home to the accomplishment of its aims. It enjoys a sufficiency, which according to ordinary estimates might seem an abundance, of good will and funds. Still it marches at a pace which, unless it be registered by the enthusiasm of Exeter Hall, appears little more than funereal. If Carey could have foreseen the magnificence of the means which his successors were destined to command, and the removal, as if by magic, of all the barriers which hemmed him in, he would have supposed that the foes were beaten, and the harvest was being reaped. Exeter Hall says it is, and that the only thing now to be done is 'to hold the conquered forts, and to push on to fresh conquests.' For eyes not endowed with the second sight of the platform, the principal citadels of heathendom continue to flaunt their banners as before. If some people profess to believe, as one speaker deplored the other day, that they hear too much of foreign missions, the explanation is that they see too little of their results."

With this "editorial" in his hands, the present writer from the platform of the Conference made the bold challenge, which, from the more commanding platform of this REVIEW, with its many thousand readers, he now repeats: he defied any man to show, in any other sphere, in whatever age or by whatever means, results so magnificent, and so out of proportion to the agencies and instrumentalities employed, as have been wrought in the last century by a few pioneers in the field of missions! With a conviction as profound, he is prepared to add, that, of all the evidences of Christianity, this is the perpetual and present proof, that, in face of foes so gigantic and of obstacles so insurmountable, such progress has been made. To him who will *study* it, the whole history of missions is the overwhelming demonstration of a supernatural Gospel, environed by a supernatural Providence, and enforced by a supernatural Spirit!

Of course rhetoric is not logic, and declaration and declamation are not demonstration. We neither ask nor wish such a statement to be accepted without investigation. On the other hand, it is a searching examination that missions court. The main difficulty is that, to most disciples, and even to the more intelligent, the field of missions is a *terra incognita*. When a leading philanthropist of Britain confesses himself to have been ignorant of the great facts of missionary history, we shall not wonder if the bulk of disciples have yet to make their first voyage of discovery. But to those who, like the Genoese navigator, will venture on the unknown sea, a whole continent, a new world of startling facts, waits to be unveiled and revealed.

The flippant fashion in which too many dispose both of the conquests and claims of missions finds illustration in a conversation overheard by the writer on the *Umbria*. "I have been in a number of countries," said one, "and never yet saw much good done by missionaries." "Nor I," said another; "and in fact I think the people would have been as well off without them as with them." Perhaps