

many have proved to be true missionaries to their afflicted brethren. Again we quote Mr. Vaughan, who, after relating a most interesting story of conversion, says:—"The rest of the leper community gradually came to look up to him as their natural head and leader; he, in fact, became their unordained pastor and teacher. His physical condition was such that he never could leave his bed; but that bed was his throne and pulpit. He ruled with Christian wisdom and love over his less advanced brethren; he watched their walk, gently admonished any inconsistencies which they might display, gathered them around him every morning and evening for devotion, expounded to them the Scriptures, and mightily helped them in their heavenward course. Hindu and Mohammedan enquirers also sat by his side, and learned the truth from his lips. He lived some three years thus to glorify God and benefit his fellows. His sufferings at times were great, but we never saw him unhappy. He seemed to have reached the apostolic standard; he was 'joyful in all his tribulations.' We never saw a Christian with clearer views, stronger faith, and brighter hope, than he possessed." The writer has known some interesting cases of this kind. One especially, a terrible sufferer, for, added to all his other afflictions, he was blind, who spent his time in composing hymns to the praise of Jesus and in teaching the others to sing them; another who used to read to his companions and pray earnestly with them. This latter was, I think, afterwards ordained an elder of the Leper Church.

Light and Darkness.

BY MRS. H. GRATTAN GUINNESS.

False impressions as to the spiritual condition of our world are apt to be produced by the reading of missionary literature. We hear of efforts in one land and another, of new missions founded, and new bands of workers sent forth, and we are apt to feel as if the world was being rapidly evangelized, and as if present agencies were fairly adequate to meet the case.

How utterly untrue the impression! All that is doing is as *nothing* compared with what remains to be done! It is difficult to emphasize this fact strongly enough. What impression have all the efforts of Christendom combined made upon heathendom? How many converts have been gathered into the Church, in comparison with the multitudes still outside the sound of the Gospel?

The total number would, on the annexed cut, be proportionately represented by *one* of the little squares! Not a million converts have yet been brought into the Christian Church, by all the efforts of the last fifty years!

Each square of this diagram represents a million of human beings, so vast is the present population of the globe, according to recent and careful estimates. These degrees of light and variations of shadow, and this immense preponderance of unrelieved blackness, indicate accurately the proportion of moral and spiritual light among the men and women of our own generation.

Of the world's total population of one thousand four hundred and twenty-four millions, nearly two-thirds are still total heathen, and the remainder are mostly either Mohammedans or members of those great apostate churches whose religion is a mere Christianized idolatry.

Thus (to say nothing of merely nominal Protestants, who have the Gospel whether they obey it or not) we have four terrible facts: 1. Eight millions of Jews still reject their Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. 2. Three hundred millions of so-called Christians have apostatized from the faith of Christ, are sunk in superstition and

ignorance of the Gospel, as in Austria, Spain, and Russia. 3. A hundred and seventy millions more are followers of the false prophet; and, 4. The remaining eight hundred and fifty-six millions are still in this year of our Lord, 1883, utter heathen.

Our Master bade His disciples to lift up their eyes and *look on the fields*, in order that they might pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest.

Would He not have us look on *these fields*, and take to heart the fact that all the laborers at work in them, even after all the efforts of this century, are so few that their combined efforts have diminished the mass of heathenism only by an almost imperceptible fraction?

True, that fraction is *in itself* a priceless gain; a million of human beings turned from darkness to light, and saved from the wrath to come, bringing up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and becoming lights amid the gloom of their surroundings. True, it repays all, and more than all, it has cost to secure it, and is cause for profound thankfulness and strong encouragement.

But what is it compared to the mass of which it is a fraction? One of these squares! Say one-thousandth part of the whole.

What then is the world's need? What the *present* force of the injunction: "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest," and "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature"?

We must not let the immensity of the task paralyze us with discouragement. It is immense, but *so are our resources*. There are more true Christians in the world to-day than ever there were before. It is easier for them to travel and dwell among the heathen, the world over, than ever it was before. The printed Gospel message can be distributed this year in more languages than in any former year of the Christian age, and the Church has more material wealth and more devoted and efficient workers than ever she had before.

There is no doubt that the Protestant Churches of England and America, of this last quarter of the nineteenth century, *could* give the Gospel to the men of this generation, *if they tried*. And this only is our task: *to evangelize the world*, not to save it, is *our* responsibility.

We are not called to aim at the impossible; we are not commanded to *convert* the world. We are told to *evangelize* it. This is a most important distinction, removing any sense of discouragement which might otherwise arise from the apparently insignificant results of missionary efforts.

Our task is clearly assigned, and our fidelity to Christ will not be estimated by the numbers of the saved, but by the degree to which we obey His last command. What *are we doing*? Let us each one see to it that we can honestly reply, *Our utmost*. Let us day by day bend all the thought and consideration we can to the solution of this great problem, how is the Gospel to be given to the men and women of our own generation?

LET US PRAY the Lord of the harvest, pray earnestly, confidently, hopefully, that He will thrust forth laborers into His harvest. How natural that He *should* do so, seeing it is His own, and seeing He is well able to move His people's hearts, both to *go* and to *give* that others may go.

LET US GO, if by any possibility we can shake ourselves free of other claims, to some sphere where no one preaches Christ, and where no one knows Him—where we may have the privilege of being the only lights amid surrounding darkness.

LET US GIVE all we can; give as freely as we have