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I.—LITERATURE OF MISSIONS.

THE CITY AS A FACTOR IN THE WORLD'S EVANGELIZATION.

“WHAT a fermenting vat lies simmering and hid in the great city.”—CARLYLE.

[SOME two or three years since we wrote and published an article in *The Homiletic Review* entitled, “The Enormous Growth of our Cities, and the Duty of the Church in Relation to it.” The paper attracted no little notice at the time, and we have been repeatedly asked to reproduce and give it a wider circulation. While written for a different specific purpose, the following article will embody many of the facts, statements, and considerations given in the paper referred to. We freely quote our own language, where it subserves the end we have in view in the present contribution. The facts here stated have been carefully scrutinized, and the statistics, wherever obtainable, brought down to a late date. Our object now is not to suggest or discuss the best methods of city evangelization—we have not space to do justice to that burning question—but simply to show, *from their rapid growth, and the character and outcome of that growth, the absolute necessity of evangelizing our cities if we would save the nation and evangelize the world.*—J. M. S.]

[EDITORIAL.—J. M. S.]

THE history of great cities is, substantially, the history of man. Not only have they played a conspicuous part in the political affairs of nations, but they have originated and determined the social and intellectual, the moral and spiritual conditions and destiny of the various peoples and communities that have dwelt upon the earth and made its history. Blot out the record of a dozen ancient cities and but little will remain of man's history prior to the coming of Christ. Babylon and Nineveh ruled the largest empires of antiquity. The cities of the Nile gave to the Pharaohs for many centuries vast dominion and power. Jerusalem was long the glorious life, and finally the overthrow and ruin of God's chosen people. Rome *imperial* long dictated laws to the world and subjected it to its iron scepter, while Rome *spiritual*, for more than twelve centuries, has perverted the faith and ruled the consciences of a large part of the Christian world. While Athens swayed a majestic power in the realm of the intellect and of the civilizing forces of humanity.

Coming down to later times we find that Paris was France under the Empire, and is substantially so under the Republic; while under both, as the goddess of Fashion and the genesis of the French novel and the French play, Paris is fast corrupting the morals of Germany and England, and spreading her infection on this side the sea. London to-day dominates Great Britain and Oceania and the commercial world, and rules 200,000,000 souls in India, while New York has long corrupted and cursed, politically and morally, the Empire State. And Chicago