

In every hamlet of Christendom and every center of gospel light in heathendom, Bunyan still teaches sinners how to become saints, and pilgrims how to make progress in holy living.

Such a life and such a book as Bunyan's would have been impossible had he held lax views of gospel truth. Loose notions of law and penalty, the guilt of sin and the need of Jesus, forfeit stalwartness of Christian character and energy of endeavor. We may call evangelical doctrine illiberal and narrow, but it is the backbone of all evangelism. Somehow, on just such diet, have been nourished the most heroic men and women among the martyrs and missionaries of Christ. Because these "severe" truths are God's truths they give to character masculinity and muscularity, and to influence both power and permanence. It is because this great work of John Bunyan's is true to God and man, to the awful fact and guilt of sin, to the dreadful penalty of broken law and the blessed deliverance of penitent faith; it is because this allegory is true to the Bible, the Christ and the Holy Spirit, that God has chosen, as one of the chief commentaries upon His Holy Word, Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress."

And is this death—what men call endless sleep?
 When Life's high powers in ceaseless action keep?
 In every land remote, in every age,
 The pilgrim shall peruse this charming page,
 And learn through wicket gate to find the Way
 That leads from darkness to the Land of Day;
 Shall at the Cross lay every burden down,
 And pass the river to the goal and crown.
 He is not dead who guides the faltering feet
 To where the saints in tearless triumph meet;
 Who, when his tongue is still, by magic pen
 Proclaims the gospel to his fellow-men;
 Who, by a hundred voices, loud and clear,
 Is still discipling nations, far and near.
 If this be death, what is it not to die,
 Like stars whose deathless ray illumines the sky?

A ROMANCE OF MODERN MISSIONS.

BY REV. J. W. BASHFORD, PH.D., BUFFALO, N. Y.

[Concluded from page 487.]

THE great northwest region beyond the Rocky Mountains was supposed to be practically worthless. Public men naturally believed that our western coast was as cold as the eastern on the same parallels of latitude. They were not aware of the great warm current in the Pacific which raises the temperature of the whole northwest region as far east as Dakota. In fact, many leading statesmen were opposed to the extension of the American Republic west of the Rocky Mountains. Senator Benton of Missouri, father-in-law of Gen. Fremont, and author of "Thirty Years in Congress," perhaps