

denominations had risen to 430 millions, that is, 43 per cent. of the 1000 millions of the heathens and Mohammedans, or about as 1 in 2, or more nearly 1.02 $\frac{1}{2}$.

If we take only the Protestant population at the two periods, the relative change is more striking still. In 1786 the 37 millions of Protestants were to the 960 millions of heathen and Mohammedan population only 4 per cent., or as 1 in 26. In 1886 the 137 millions were to the 1313 millions, 10 per cent., or as very nearly 1 in 10. But the gain is not only in numbers; in learning and science, in wealth and power the gain is greater far.

Take this rapid and great increase in the numbers and resources of the church in connection with the opening up of the whole world to evangelistic enterprise, and have we not a clear instruction of the design of God? The one condition, without the other, would have had little significance. If the world had been open, but the church poor and weak and few in numbers, there might have been an excuse for indolence, although the memory of Pentecost and the little company in the upper room, might have inspired even a feeble few to attempt great things in the name of a risen Redeemer. If the church had been large and strong, but the world closed, she might have taken it as a plea for attempting little. But when we see an open world, easy of access, and a church so prosperous and powerful, there is not the shadow of an excuse for idleness. There is every encouragement, and the loudest call to a supreme effort for the evangelization of the world. The heathen are calling, God is commanding His people to arise in His might, and to take possession of all nations, in His name. It is at her peril that the church of Christ neglects the call of Providence, which is the voice of God.

IV.—FACILITIES FOR MISSION WORK NOW, AND A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

The advantages for a new crusade are inconceivably greater in our day, as compared with what they were in the days of our fathers. Then the work was new and untried. The few specimens of work done were not models of wisdom, or examples of success. Some were of value as a warning, rather than encouragement. Everything was new and strange, all had to be built up—the very foundations had to be dug. Can we wonder that mistakes were made? It would have been a miracle if they had not. The condition of the savage tribes among whom they began was so entirely different from anything in home experience, we can only wonder at the courage, and faith, and wisdom, of the early founders of our missions.

The tools with which they were to work had to be invented and made. Languages had not only to be learned, they had to be fashioned and clothed in the forms of written speech. The fleeting sounds from the lips of savages had to be coined into visible words, and construed in harmony with the strange usages of people innocent