

THE GREATEST FORCE IN THE WORLD

The most powerful forces in the world work silently. No man can hear the sun or the tides or the mighty attractions which hold the universe together or bind man securely upon this flying earth. The seed germinates in stillness under ground and all the great growth of Nature is inaudible. It is a strange thing that we can not bring ourselves to realize that if Nature's most massive energies operate in silence it is even more to be expected that the great spiritual forces will be noiseless too. We seem to think otherwise. We look to public men, to loud explosions of guns, to newspaper and platform publicity, to the movement and pressure of the mass and overlook the buried seed of suggestion, the private word, the unobserved friendship, the working book, the penetration and the persistence of personal memories, the unrelaxing secret grip of truth moulding the conscience and the inward soul of individuals and of mankind.

But it is with these deeper and vaster forces that the cause of missions works. Its men and women go out quietly into the world and are lost to sight. They settle in great cities where the traveler who does not look for them does not see them. Or they go out into remote places where the traveller never comes. They make no great stir. They begin with no tumult, making friends, rendering service, healing sick folk, teaching children, here and there giving to someone who may understand. They spread new ideas and they live a new life. And neither an idea nor a life is audible. Sometimes the quiet of such work is disturbed by misunderstanding, or innocent folk have to bear the guilt of the consequences of deeds that were neither quiet nor innocent. And sometimes the thunders break which sooner or later are inevitable from the clash of silent truth with the falsehood, secret or open, which is its foe. But the still and pacific energies of love and life work on and in the end they are resistless.—*Missionary Review*.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS AFTER A CENTURY

Modern Missions began a little over a century ago—practically within the lifetime of one man. A comparison between conditions then and now gives confidence in the guiding hand of God.

Mission Boards?—There were at the beginning of the last century only six, and they had just started. Now there are 700, supporting missionaries in nearly every non-Christian country in the world.

Missionaries?—Then about 100 and they not bona fide foreign missionaries, but rather colonial ministers. Now 25,000 men and women represent the Christian Church (Protestant) in the foreign fields.

Native Preachers?—Then: none ordained. Now 110,000 ordained and unordained, preaching and teaching among their own people.

Churches and Sunday Schools.—Then none. Now 27,000 organized churches and 33,000 other places unorganized, but having regular religious services. Also 37,000 Sunday Schools having 2,000,000 children enrolled.

Theological Colleges?—Then none. Now 406 Colleges and Bible schools having about 10,000 students in training for Christian work.

Doctors?—Then none. Now 750 men, 320 women and 550 nurses as foreign missionaries; also 250 native doctors and 2,200 trained assistants.

Medical Work?—Then no hospitals; now there are 710 with 18,000 beds. Then no dispensaries; now there are 1,150. In these hospitals and dispensaries 3,200,000 individuals were treated in a year, with a total of 9,000,000 treatments.

Contributions?—A century ago about \$75,000 annually by all Protestant Churches. Now \$40,000,000 per annum. Then native churches gave nothing. Now nearly \$5,000,000 yearly.

Bible Societies?—Then none. Now eighty. The Bible in whole or in part is translated into 558 languages.—Condensed from an address delivered by Dr. R. P. MacKay.
—*Missionary Ammunition*.