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Protestant Foreign Missions.

THE eminent German divine, Dr. Theodore Christlieb, furnishes in a volume of 250 pages "a Universal Survey" of the present state of Protestant foreign missions. The work is one which can be recommended to ministers and people, and especially to managers of missions, whether members of boards or committees at home, or active agents in the "high places of the field."

There is nothing more remarkable, nothing more hopeful in the aspect of the age, than the unexampled success of missions to the heathen. The nineteenth century is the missionary era: the present is the age of the universal extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom. The conquests of the primitive church were confined mainly to the shores of the Mediterranean. In the middle ages the tribes and nations of Europe were christianized. At the close of the eighteenth century there was a fair and healthy beginning, and heroic hands had planted the standard of the cross in many a heathen stronghold; but it is since the opening of the current century that incomparably the greatest progress has been made in the establishing of universal missions. The islands that in such vast multitude dot the Pacific are taken possession of in the name of Christ. India from Cape Comorin to the Himalayas is studded with stations more thickly than was the Roman Empire at the close of the first century. The sunny isles of the Indian Archipelago, New Guinea, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, possess evangelical missions, partly on the sea-coast, and partly far in the interior where the explorer in his love of adventure, or the trader in his hunger for gold has not pierced. Burmah and Siam are open to the Gospel, and are the scene of prosperous missions. China has a

thin line of stations in her vast provinces,—a sadly thin line, but yearly strengthening. Japan is becoming Christian with a rapidity never surpassed in the history of any great nation, and equalled only in the case of Madagascar. Mohammedan countries, from the Balkans to Bagdad, from Egypt to Persia, are blest with centres of intellectual and spiritual life. Palestine, the cradle of our Faith, too long trodden under foot of the enemy, is studded with schools and mission stations and churches from Bethlehem to Tripoli and the northern slopes of Lebanon. Africa, west and east, south and north, even to the vast and lonely centre,—is being invaded by an ever increasing array of the soldiers of Christ. Protestant missions are firmly established among the Indians of our own North-West, in Central America, in the West Indies and South America. There is no tribe so barbarous or so isolated, but brave pioneers have ventured life itself to carry to them the Gospel. Even the Falkland Islands, Terra del Fuego and Patagonia are tinged with the first streaks of the Gospel day.

Within twenty-five years missionary operations and results have increased four-fold! The ratio of increase seems to continue,—for never was a richer harvest of souls gathered in all directions, but especially in India and China, than last year.

At the close of last century there were only seven Protestant missionary societies,—two Church of England, two English Non-Conformist, three German or Dutch. Now, there are at least seventy in England and America alone. These seventy have very numerous auxiliaries at home and among the heathen. At the beginning of the century the number of male missionaries in the field amounted to 170. Of these no less than 100 belonged to the Moravians alone. To-day there are over 2,500 ordained European and