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"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning."—Psalm 137, 4-5.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.

(From McKenzie's History of the 19th Century.)

In the foremost rank of powers destined to change the face of the world stand **Christian Missions**. These many almost be regarded as products of this century, and the imposing magnitude which they have gained is altogether recent. Their beginning were so small as generally to avert hostility by securing the contemptuous indifference of those who might have been unfriendly. There are few things in human history that wear an aspect of higher moral grandeur than the opening of what are now our great missions. One or two men, sent by this church and by that, are seen going forth, in obedience to a command spoken eighteen hundred years ago, to begin the enormous work of undermining heathenism and reclaiming the world to God. Among the glories of the century is none greater than this. All other enterprises of beneficence must yield to this magnificent attempt to expel debasing superstitions, and convey into every heart the ennobling influences of the Christian religion. The success already attained gives sure promise of results the greatness of which we as yet but dimly perceive.

In 1796, a young Scottish gentleman—Robert Haldane—resolved to sell his patrimonial estate, and, along with two friends, to spend the remainder of his days in teaching the gospel to the people of Bengal. He applied to the directors of the East India Company for permission to reside in the country and follow this occupation. The directors declined, "for weighty and substantial reasons," to admit within their domain any man who came on such an errand.

Toward the close of last century, a small Baptist congregation in the town of Leicester was ministered to by a young man named Carey. He was the son of a very poor parents, who could give him no help during his preparation for the ministry. At first he maintained himself by the craft of shoemaking. Then, as he rose, he became a teacher. At length he reached what he had striven for during many toilsome years—the office of the ministry. While he labored among the handful of poor people who formed his congregation, the conviction smote him that something ought to be done for the conversion of heathens. For ten years he brooded incessantly over the undischarged duty which the church owed to the heathen world. At first his brethren listened to him coldly. They