

the following very strong endorsement of this class (p. 317): 'No career could have been more uneventful than Isaac's, but it showed at least that a path of modest retirement may honor God as much as one of more prominent action. Our Lord's authority is vouchsafed for his having passed from earth to heaven at his death.' It seems to me that there is great error just at this point through all branches of the Church. I have no recollection of seeing anything published bearing upon it except in a volume of discourses by Dr. Skinner, entitled 'Religion of the Bible,' issued about the time I left the Union Seminary in 1841. In the first discourse, on 'Spiritual Religion,' he quotes Dr. John Mason Good as saying, on his death-bed, 'I have taken what unfortunately the generality of Christians too much take—I have taken the *middle walk* of Christianity.' The discourse which follows is a *description* of spiritual religion, not of the 'middle walk.' It seems to me an appeal to average Christians, urging them to consider the nature and results of their religion, might be made that would have a great awakening effect. Just here is one of the chief reasons why the cause of missions is not more flourishing: average Christians regard missions as something which may be passed by without endangering their standing in the Church or their final salvation. It seems to me, judging from the fullness and pungency of your writings on missions, that this whole subject must have passed through your mind. An article of yours in the 'New York Observer' of July 25, entitled 'First the Kingdom,' bears in that direction and encourages me in asking you to put before the Church, in the form which seems best to you, an appeal to average Christians. You have the eye and ear of the Church, and can make yourself heard as few others can. Will you not try it?"

We feel such sympathy with the above, that we purpose in due time to prepare for these pages an appeal to the average Christian. It is the great body of the Church that need arousing, and that, so far, are doing next to nothing for missions. Out of a congregation that numbers from 4,000 to 5,000, it has been found, by actual investigation, that only 386 are known to contribute anything regularly to the support of the Gospel! How large then must be the proportion in all Christendom who have no active interest, by gifts or even by prayers, in the great mission work of the world!

We have received the following suggestion from Rev. S. P. Marsh, of Iowa, Corresponding Secretary of the "Mis-

sionary Mass Convention of the Northwest," under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to meet at Clear Lake Park in July of this year: "Rev. A. T. Pierson, D. D.:

"Your suggestion some time ago that the Church should gather together an Exposition of the Results of Missions from all parts of the world, and the suggestion of the *Spirit of Missions* that at the next World's Fair would be a good place for the display of such an exposition, ought to be acted on, and that without delay. Three years would be short enough time to gather and arrange the materials. We are about to gather the material for a Missionary Museum on an extensive scale at Clear Lake, Iowa, for use in our Annual Conventions. I think that our Missionary Secretaries could be interested in the matter and all materials gathered could be used at the World's Fair, and then be dispersed to our different Missionary Centers for continued and perpetual use. You ought to be able from your central position to interest all the Missionary Boards. I would like to be informed of the prospect, and would be glad to assist. We could interest all our missionaries. Let me hear of the prospect."

A subscriber congratulates the editors upon their success during the past year, and says:

"You have given us a magnificent magazine. I hope you will be prosperous and successful in the coming year. If you would place before us for Monthly Concert in *tabulated form*, the complete missionary forces in the respective fields presented, you would give what is *greatly needed*. What the more progressive friends of missions desire is not simply their respective denominational forces, successes, cost, etc., but with their own that of *all other societies—the world* rather than the *society* view of the work."

We think our brother scarcely ap-