

THE FIELD IS THE WORLD.

66 **G**O ye, therefore and teach all nations."—ST. MATTHEW xxviii. 19.
 "Beginning at Jerusalem."—ST. LUKE xxiv. 47.

"Wait till our own the Gospel have received,
 For with our own we surely must begin."
 "Begin and finish?"

Well, that work achieved.
 We shall have leisure to call others in :
 'Go to all Nations' *somewhen* we allow.—
 'Beginning at Jerusalem' means *now*."

"And yet, methinks the two commissions blend
 With one another, in distinctive force.
 'Go to all Nations' was the appointed end,
 'Beginning' only pointed out the course.
 Beginning only, if we wait to show
 One work completed, we shall never go."

The earliest, holiest teachers of Christ's name
 Knew not this truth at first. They would abide
 To finish their beginning, till there came
 A persecution. Sainted Stephen died.
 Then they commenced the work too long deferred,
 And "all Samaria received the Word."

The World, henceforth must be their Mission Field ;
 All nations then meant everywhere. They thought
 Asia and all its provinces should yield
 Space for their next beginning, and they sought
 To preach the Gospel there ; but they forgot
 Their first mistake. "God's spirit suffered not."

They must go on, their mission field the same—
 All nations, and all countries, one and all,
 Europe and Asia, have an equal claim
 In Christ's great sacrifice and gracious call ;
 And if they doubted, God removed the doubt :
 Lo, in a vision was their course laid out.

Thus was the Gospel spread by guiding force,
 To all the world were the glad tidings shown ;
 Well-proved tradition marks its further course,
 In far off regions, then but little known ;
 And now, as every land is open laid,
 Christ's name is preached, and Christ's command
 obeyed.

And did those earliest teachers cease to care
 For those with whom their toils began? Not so.
 Compelled to travel on, nor linger there,
 Beginning, but not ending, well we know
 How graciously they sent, in love to them,
 Alms and oblations to Jerusalem.

And this, then is our lesson. Every day
 We find some work which we must not refuse,
 And we must do such work as best we may ;
 Yet must we never quote it to excuse
 Our cold neglect of Christ's supreme command—
 "Go forth and preach My Name in every land."
 F. W. M. in *Mission Field*.

INCIDENTS AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE year 1858 was a wonderful year for Missions. Dr. A. T. Pierson editor of the *Missionary Review of the World* speaks of it thus:—

When Paul and Barnabas came back to Antioch from their first mission tour, "they gathered the Church together and rehearsed all

that God had done with them, and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles." But did God ever open doors to access in Apostolic times with such rapidity and on such a scale of grandeur as in our own day?

The events he refers to, all occurring in 1858, are : (1) Great Britain, after two hundred years of exclusion, made her treaty with Japan. (2) By the treaty of Tientsin, China threw open her ports, and her interior, and provided that any Chinese subject might embrace the Christian faith without molestation or persecution. (3) India was transferred from the sordid East India Company to the British Crown, and Victoria became Empress of the Indies. (4) The revolutionary changes in Papal Europe laid the basis of free Italy. (5) David Livingstone sailed a second time for South Africa, to complete his pioneer path for missionaries. (6) Benito Juarez, in Mexico, overthrew the monastic system, confiscated the estates and revenues of the Papal Church, and opened the way for Protestant missionaries to enter Central America. (7) Elizabeth Sale, of Helensburgh, Scotland, successfully penetrated the Zenanas of Hindustan, and led the way in woman's work for woman !

Thus in one year, doors of approach were opened to from thirty to forty millions in Japan, three hundred to four hundred millions in China, two hundred and fifty to three hundred millions more in India, including all her millions of women and girls, two hundred and fifty to three hundred millions more in Africa, besides the hosts in Papal Italy and Mexico !

THERE are very few men or women with character stalwart enough to endure continuous idleness, writes Dr. Talmage in *The Lady's Home Journal*. I see a pool of water in the country, and I say : "Thou slimy, fetid thing—what does all this mean?" "Oh," says the pool of water, "I'm just stopping here." I say : "Didn't you drop like a beautiful gem into a casket of other gems as you tumbled over the rock?" "Oh, yes, I sang all the way down from the cliffs to the meadow." I say again : "Didn't I see you playing with those shuttles and turning that grist-mill?" "Oh, yes, I used to earn my living." I say again : "Then what makes you look so sick? Why are you covered with this green scum? Why is your breath so vile?" "Oh," says the water, "I have nothing to do. I am disgusted with shuttles and wheels. I am going to spend my whole lifetime here, and while yonder stream sings on its way down the mountain side, here I am, left to fester and die, accursed of God because I have nothing to do." Sin is an old pirate that bears down on vessels whose sails are flapping in the wind. Morning, noon, and night, Sundays and week days, thank God every day for plenty to do.