

and for various reasons still more striking, have been the results of foreign missions in the largest field of applied Christianity in the whole world. It is only indeed as applied Christianity, as the effort of Christian love, feeling direct obligation to Christ and speaking His words in reliance upon His name,—so as, while including, to transcend all the appliances of civilisation, education and moral example, that these missions have succeeded, and constituted perhaps the greatest triumph of the Gospel in the nineteenth century. No one could attend the Centenary Missionary Conference in London in June last without seeing that here was the finger of God! What a contrast from the founding of the Baptist Missionary Society in Kettering in 1792, when the collection amounted to £13, 2s. 6d., and Carey had to go out in a Danish vessel! Here were the ends of the earth now come together, representing almost all Protestant churches, with their converts numbered by millions, with the Bible translated into 230 languages, the whole world opened up, and another century, with the same noiseless stream, ready to carry the wonder proportionately farther. In that remarkable assembly—the uncrowned heroes of the Christian faith—no one spoke of exhortation, but only of how better work could be done; or of unity, but only exemplified it even in a symbolic way, by using only the same English tongue. Here for once in the history of the world was something which made apologetics look superfluous, the task of criticism over-anxious, and the reconstruction of creeds a labour that could afford to wait. In secular changes through the century, God had spoken by whirlwind and earthquake and fire; but the world, though shaken, had remained much the same, as the blast does not metamorphose the rock that it rends, or turn the salt water of the sea into fresh. Here was the still, small voice to be heard with “fear and great joy.” In this spirit may every Christian work of this century—and this Journal also—be begun and ended, and may writers and readers alike “go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord!”

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