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## I.—LITERATURE OF MISSIONS.

### THE RELATIONS OF MISSIONS AND COMMERCE.

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[Read before the late General Missionary Conference, London.]

PAUL at Ephesus encountered not only the general opposition of the world, the flesh, and the devil, but he had special trouble with an unprincipled craftsman. At Philippi, also, he found a stock company making merchandise of a half-demented girl whose conversion interfered with their business. And from that day to this, human rapacity has again and again thrust itself across the path of philanthropy and beneficence.

We do not forget that legitimate commerce has been a great factor in the development of civilization and even in the progress of the gospel. The growth of the early Church followed the lines of trade across the Mediterranean, and on the Continent of Europe Latin Christianity penetrated the forest homes of stalwart races where Roman arms and merchandise had opened the way. Secular enterprise has built the great Christian cities of our Western hemisphere, and opened mission fields everywhere in the chief islands of the sea. The California of to-day could not have been created by missionary effort alone, and the magnificent spectacle of a British Empire in Southern Asia, with its Bible, its schools and colleges, its law and order, its manifold enlightenment and moral elevation, could not have existed but for the long and sometimes questionable career of the East India Company.

But there is no universal law in the case. Civilization, even in its rougher forms, has not always preceded the missionary movement. Often it has proved a hindrance. Throughout British America, mission stations have followed the factories of the fur traders; but in Hawaii, Samoa, Fiji, and Madagascar, missionary labor has led the way. Centuries ago, also, missionaries from Ireland and Iona, penetrating not only England and Scotland, but many portions of the Continent, were unattended by secular enterprise, and yet their influence was so strong and deep that Europe and the world have felt it and rejoiced in it ever since. Those hordes of Northmen whom Britain could not resist, nor the armies of Charlemagne conquer or even