

## MISSION FIELD.

[From the Spirit of Missions, N. Y. for January]

## THE WORLD'S HOPE.

Writing upon the threshold of a new year, and looking forward toward the closing of this marvellous 19th century of the Christian era, we are filled with a sense of the supreme importance of the present and of the mighty possibilities which lie just beyond for the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. A fresh call seems to come to us to enter with new consecration and zeal upon the Lord's work.

It is not many years since the heathen world was barred and bolted against the Kingdom of God. China was walled up in exclusive seclusion, and its hundreds of millions were inaccessible to the Gospel. Japan was the hermit nation, and terrible edicts were posted there against the Christian and the Christian's God. Africa was *terra incognita*, a land of savagery and mystery, while its unnumbered millions were in dense darkness. The islands of the sea were scenes of cruelly forbidding the approach of civilized man. Then the Church came upon its knees. Prayers were offered without ceasing that God would open the way to the heathen world, that He would throw down the barriers and cast up a highway that His servants might enter in and possess those lands for the Lord God Almighty.

Now, all that is changed. God has heard the prayers of His people and granted their desire. All the nations of the earth are open to the messengers of Christ. China no longer forbids them. Japan has repealed its threatening edicts. Africa has opened its secrets to the explorer. The islands of the sea, one after another, have surrendered to the entreaties of God's servants, and we see to-day a world waiting for the Kingdom of God. It needs only a cry out for mercy. In its blind gropings it pleads for the Light of life, the Light which shines so benignly upon us, the Gospel which, in the full blaze of God's revelation, pours its blessings into our hearts and homes, the Church which speaks to the comforting words of pardon and peace and hope eternal—these gifts which God has bestowed upon us so freely, so beautifully—He bids us send to those who are without them that His Name may be known throughout the earth. The heroes and martyrs who have laid down their lives as pioneers, Krapf and Livingston, Selwyn and Patteson, Hannington and Gordon and others join their pleadings in behalf of the benighted.

Surely this is not a time for slumber, but for quickened energy. This is not a time for self-indulgence, but for heroic endeavor—a time for self-searching, for girding ourselves that we may go in the spirit of earnest self-sacrifice to do the Lord's work.

The sufferings of the sick among the Chinese in New York and



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Brooklyn are to be alleviated by the establishment in the latter city of a hospital for them. Dr. J. L. Thomas, of the Long Island College Hospital, is to be placed in charge of it.

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