

MISSIONS

CHAPTER I

MISSIONS BEFORE THE REFORMATION

SINCE the days of the first Apostles, the great work of spreading the religion of Christ throughout the world has never ceased. At some times zeal and progress have been greater than at others, but the advance has been continuous, and the methods by which that advance has been secured have been singularly alike in all ages, so that in the record of the successes and failures of the past, the Church of the present day should find its best guidance for further progress.

The spread of Christianity has always been allied with the spread of civilisation, partly of course because Christianity itself is one of the chief, if not the chief, of civilising agencies, partly because the spread of new ideas is