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SOME HINDRANCES AND HELPS IN EVANGELIZING LAOS  
LAND.

The great hindrances to the spread of the Gospel and the conversion of men are the same in all ages and all lands. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." "And men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." "The God of this world hath blinded the eyes of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ should shine unto them." These statements are as true now as when Jesus and Paul uttered them, and in them are still to be found the chief obstacles to the triumph of the Gospel. Not caste and the slave trade, but the evil heart of unbelief departing from the living God; not Buddha or Confucius or Mohammed, but Satan, the enemy of God and man—this is still the Jebus that holds out against the Son of David, this still the Goliath whom He must meet and slay. And as the most obstinate difficulties, so the highest encouragements of the mission enterprise are the same to-day as at the beginning. It was the truest missionary instinct that led Judson, when some one wrote to him inquiring what were the prospects for the evangelization of Burmah, to reply, "Bright as the promises of God." The cause of missions will always be at its best when the "Go ye" and the "Lo, I am with you always" of Christ outbulks and outweighs every other encouragement in the esteem of its supporters. But while all this is true, it is true too that each field presents difficulties on the one hand, and sources of encouragement on the other, which are to some extent peculiar to itself. In these, not in geographical situation or climate or productions, lie the true differentia of mission lands; and of these we must have some right conception if we are to enter into intelligent and prayerful sympathy with missionaries, and not simply to feel a vague interest in missions. The writer hopes, therefore, that it may be to the purpose if in this month of May, when so many prayers will be put up for Siam and Laos, he speaks of "Some Hindrances and Helps in Evangelizing Laos Land."