

were no missionary periodicals ; when the " Monthly Concert " was but eight years old ; when no entrance had been made into Japan, China, Siam, Africa, Burmah, Papal lands, or Mohammedan territory, and when there was so little interest in foreign missions that the task seemed hopeless of making even a beginning.

We are far ahead of the starting point of a century ago. We have left away behind Widow Wallis's little parlor at Kettering, with its dozen humble Baptists and their dozen pounds sterling ; and great Exeter Hall is too small for the monster meetings of one society, and the Crystal Palace has been talked of for the great anniversaries. But we are far from the goal, the reasonable goal, toward which we should promptly press ; and if we grow in grace and knowledge as we ought, no goal that is now in sight will satisfy us ; it would only become a new starting-point for a new goal, as yet too far off to be visible now.

We have been long meditating upon the coming age of missions, and looking forward hopefully to see in the immediate future some radical changes made in the methods of prosecuting missions ; and, at risk of seeming visionary, chimerical, or even fanatical, we boldly outline on these pages some of the features which we believe we discern in the future prosecution of a world's evangelization. Once more we write large that word ENTERPRISE as the true motto of the Church of Christ. The world ought not to put us to shame in manifesting more zeal for that which perishes than we do for the unfading crown and heritage. Obviously, if we are to make any approach to the ideal age of missions, all real radical advance must begin with the *individual* disciple. We can never convert or consecrate people in the mass ; souls come one by one into the kingdom, never two at a birth ; and so also is it that saints climb to loftier heights. When every true believer regards himself as one with his Lord in the enterprise of missions ; when he seeks to inform himself thoroughly and constantly of the needs of the world and the progress of the work ; when he follows for himself the great campaign, notes the strategic points and the position of the forces ; when he studies to keep track of the world-wide field as he would trace day by day the movements of his country's forces in an enemy's territory—then the first granite block will be laid for the coming structure of a thoroughly organized work for God. The ignorance that prevails begets indifference as its natural offspring. Wherever there is true piety, knowledge will kindle zeal.

Then we need individual and systematic prayer for missions ; definite prayer that has also individual objects, that takes up one field at a time and one missionary at a time, and intelligently pleads with God for that field and work and worker. We knew a devout reader of the *Missionary Herald* who was wont to make every particular missionary thus a subject of prayer by name, and who read that noble record of events that he might follow the development of each laborer's work by intelligent supplication. Nothing gives the China Inland Mission more strength and heroism than the