

THE
MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD.

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I.—THE LITERATURE OF MISSIONS.

PAUL'S MISSIONARY PRINCIPLES.

[EDITORIAL.—A. T. P.]

LOOKING back through the long aisles of the ages and tracing the history of missions, we behold a grand procession, or succession, of devoted men and women, whose names constitute an alphabet of glory. Yet back of them all, farther removed into the distant past, stands “Paul the Little,” yet the colossal, commanding figure that even distance cannot diminish—the pioneer, in a twofold sense, of missions to the heathen. Noble as are the names of the missionary host, and inspiring as is the story of their heroism, there is no nobler name, no more heroic career than those represented by the Apostle of the Gentiles.

It may be well to try and analyze the principles that underlay that grand missionary life which, leading all the rest in point of time, has led all the rest in point of excellence and eminence; for the history of man has furnished no higher pattern save only as found in Him who made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant and undertook the original mission to universal man.

I. In Paul's life as a missionary we observe first a peculiar law of *evangelization*: the occupation of otherwise unoccupied fields. “I have strived to preach the gospel not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation; but as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of they shall see,” etc. His special aim was “to preach the gospel in the regions beyond” (Rom. xv. 20, 21; 2 Cor. x. 13–16).

The right and left arms of Christian activity are these two—education and evangelization. We are first to proclaim Christ where he has not been named, and then to train converts into active, stalwart disciples and workers. There is undoubtedly a work of building, but foundations must first be laid. And this necessity cannot be too much