

introducing purer Christianity was dwelt on, and the obligation resting on Western Christianity to pay back its debt to the East, and by a new crusade of missions and Bible work to recover these old lands for Christ. In connection with this, reference was made to the great mental excitement and expectation pervading the East, and to the rapidity of political change. Instances of this were given from Egypt and Syria. Another, and very recent, evidence was the edict of toleration and religious equality just issued by the Chinese Government, which, while intended to repress the intolerance and political aims of the French missionaries, might be taken as a lesson to other nations in their treatment of the Chinese, and a reminder of the obligation to give the Gospel to this great people, destined in all probability to play a very important part in the future destinies of the countries surrounding the Pacific ocean, where at this moment a great struggle between Protestantism, Romanism and Heathenism is in active progress. In the early Christian times the countries surrounding the Mediterranean had been the great battle grounds of light and darkness. In modern times the struggle had embraced the whole Atlantic basin. Now it was rapidly spreading around the Pacific and flowing back to the old lands of the East, where perhaps in the future the greatest of all the struggles for the redemption of humanity was to take

place. An unconscious presentiment of this had, perhaps, some connection with the efforts now being made by all the nations to maintain and extend their influence in the East.

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