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I.—LITERATURE OF MISSIONS.
THE REGIONS BEYOND.*

[EDITORIAL.]

The old Greeks were a worldly-wise people. In the Olympic games they showed their sagacity. Three pillars stood in the ancient stadium, respectively at the starting point, midway, and at the goal or turning point. On the first was inscribed a Greek word, whose force was, "Show yourself a man!" "Do your best!" On the last was a word which might be rendered, "Stop here!" "Arrest your steps!" But on that midway pillar was the imperative *Σπευδε*, "Speed you!" "Make haste!"

How much philosophy there was in that! No risk was greater than the risk of overconfidence when success was but half attained. A racer, who at first outran the others, and at the middle of the course found himself ahead, would be tempted to relax his efforts; and so some athlete, who had reserved his strength for the supreme effort at the end of the race, would pass him by and get first to the goal.

Paul was a trained athlete in the spiritual sphere; and the law of his life was, "forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Spinoza wisely said that there is no more fatal foe to all progress than self-conceit and the laziness which self-conceit begets. To think and feel that we have already attained or are already perfect, is the narcotic that brings on the sleep of the sluggard and the slothful.

The motto of the great apostle of the Gentiles was, THE REGIONS BEYOND. He would be satisfied with no other man's method of measurement, with no narrow circumference of present attainment. He yearned to evangelize—to preach the Gospel in the Regions Beyond, and not to boast in another man's canon or measure as to territory already embraced in the scheme of labor.

That motto of Paul is the true watchword of the Church in this new age of missions. After all the work of a century, we have only

* The substance of an address at anniversary of China Inland Mission, Mildna, Ha. London, England, May 21, 1890, and stenographically reported.—A. T. P.