

## II.—INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

EDITED AND CONDUCTED BY REV. J. T. GRACEY, D.D.

### What Commerce and Science Owe to Missionaries.\*

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In asking your interest and sympathy in the great cause which I have the privilege of representing to you to-day, it should be enough for every Christian heart for me to open this Word of God, and point to the great commission (Mark 16:15). "Go ye into all the world and disciple every creature." The Saviour, at a supreme moment of His life, leaving His earthly farewell with His apostles, chose not to speak of the local interests of His own village of Nazareth, nor of His capital city Jerusalem, nor of His Jewish nation, nor of His love for family or friends. It stands to reason that the subject of which He chose to speak at the last hour of His earthly life must be not alone for Him, but for all His followers, the theme of highest interest, calling for implicit obedience to His last command. In the great army of King Jesus there should be obedience as implicit as in any earthly army. No colonel questions his general, no captain his colonel, no private asks his captain "why?" Doubtless there are men before me to-day with memories of the battles of our late civil war. You remember when the orderly rode up to your captain with an order from your colonel, "Take that battery!" As your captain called for a detail of volunteers, and as the detail stepped forward at the double quick, no one said, "Send some one else," no one asked, "What for?" no one said, "It's no use;" though each one of that detail knew that within five minutes half of them would be dead men. No, you charged, and you took that battery.

To any hesitating Christian it should be enough to say, as Lord Wellington asked of a hesitating questioner, "What are your marching orders?" True, human orders may sometimes be in error. It is on record that the order at Balaklava, that sent the six hundred on their fearful charge, was an error. The brave men of the Light Brigade knew it as they unhesitatingly spurred to their errand of self-destruction. Down that lane of death they rode, "cannon to the right of them, cannon to the left of them;" cannon to their front, flinging iron hail through quivering bone and muscle, yet they rode on through that lane of death, returning only three hundred! For what? Waste? No! to illustrate the moral grandeur of disciplined obedience, to leave on a page of English history an example that stirs every British heart with pride, to leave to the world a heritage of courage, forever to be a stimulus to the noble enthusiasm of future youth. An unquestioning bravery all the more demanding our admiration, just because, as in the recent case of the *Victoria* battleship, where the impracticable order sent four hundred men to their watery grave, their general is now known to have made a mistake. But our Captain Jesus makes no mistakes.

But I choose to-day to close this Bible, and to insult you and humiliate myself by saying that we do not believe in its teachings, that its commands lay no obligation on us, that Jesus was only a good man among other good men, and that we are not Christians; and then standing off on this Christless platform, I will present you reasons which even you in your now Christless position will accept as valid for the prosecution of the work of foreign missions.

While you and I were Christians it was enough for me to state to you certain facts about mission work and respectfully to leave those facts to make

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