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"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning." — PSALM CXXXVII. 5.

FOREIGN MISSIONS: THEIR AID TO SCIENCE.

A LECTURE TO THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, HALIFAX, BY REV. P. MELVILLE, B.D.

THIS Theme allotted to me, (as well as the next on the Programme) refers to the Secular Benefits arising from Sacred Missions. It may seem a dangerous and degrading view of Gospel Missions to turn from their holy and heavenly End, and study their Secular and Sinister By-ends, in Science and Commerce.

That altogether depends. I hope to treat this very Theme, and even this Secular Aspect of Foreign Missions, in a truly Christian spirit throughout. For SCIENCE is not only SECULAR, but also SACRED, and in its genuine form it is always the FAITHFUL FRIEND, if not the HUMBLE HANDMAID, of Religion. As SECULAR, it includes alike the Physical, the Mental, and the Metaphysical Sciences. As SACRED, it includes the Sciences of Theology and Deontology; namely, of Faith and of Duty; or, in other words, "what man is to BELIEVE concerning GOD, and what DUTY GOD requireth of man." Surely these are no sinister or selfish studies, and far from profane or degrading by-ends.

Now, so vast and varied are the aids which all these Sciences have received from Foreign Missions, that it would prove very tedious and bewildering even to enumerate them. Besides, it would be a poor model of preaching to put before these young students. I presume you wish us to instruct them by the

best methods and manner, as well as the choicest matter. I will therefore give you general results, in a few panoramic glimpses, taken strategically and consecutively from life and history in the Divine Testaments, Old and New; and in the Christian Church as Primitive, Medieval, and Modern; both the Romish and the Reformed. If I can photograph these in your minds, they will teach you and abide with you far more pleasantly and profitably for life and immortality than the longest list of dry details, such as you find in Catalogues or Cyclopædias, or even in such able works as "*Modern Missions and Culture*," by Dr. Warneck. And if ever you become Preachers, shun the habit of abstruse and tedious details. They are all right in a book of Chronicles, but not in a popular discourse; and it is doubtful if students are much more patient. Do not try them too severely. The best ideal of preaching, is, always, to put the most precious truth and grace into the simplest words.

In order to have the unerring aid of God's Word, let us begin from the beginning. JEHOVAH JESUS was the first Missionary. Of old, even in Eden, He appeared as the Creator, the Revealer, and the Restorer. By His Presence Angel He taught the Patriarchs, whether Antediluvian or Postdiluvian. By His Divine Humanity He came in the flesh to redeem our rebel race. By His Holy Spirit He still comes continually to convict and convert sinners, and to sanctify and save the lost. He is THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, the MAKER OF ALL SCIENCE; in Whom are hid ALL the treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge, whether Scientific, Philosophic, or Divine.