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WILLIAM CAREY, MAY, 1792.

I.—THE FULNESS OF THE TIMES.—SCOTLAND, NEW ENGLAND, AND THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHOEMAKER, BY PRAYER AND A SOCIETY, BEGIN THE FIRST CENTURY OF MODERN MISSIONS.

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The world was waiting, unconsciously but none the less really, for the event, when, a hundred years ago, William Carey founded his "Society for Propagating the Gospel among the Heathen." The time was the third of the three epochs in history since the incarnation of the Word of God, when the human race made a distinct leap upward. The first of these three periods was in the years A.D. 51–55, in the former of which Paul, the apostle of the nations, passed from Asia into Greece; and in the latter Julius Cæsar landed in Great Britain. Europe, and particularly the English-speaking peoples, then entered on the missionary career which has made them the masters and the guides of the dark races to bring them to Christ. The second of these new-birth times of the race was in the years 1492–1534, in which Columbus revealed America and India was opened up to Europe, while Luther was used to reform the Church, and to put into the hands of each of its members the vernacular Bible, which is "The Great Missionary." Europe thus Christianized, and its Churches anew vitalized by the living oracles of God—a double process, which occupied eighteen centuries—had not begun its appointed duty, as the servant of the Lord, of Christianizing the world. He with whom a thousand years are as one day—mysterious leisure—was ready. The world in its dumb helplessness and pathetic need was ready. A third time since Paul crossed the Ægean to Macedonia the Church had been brought to the birth, and it seemed to be without strength to bring forth.

The third epoch, covering the years 1779–92, is marked by the names of two men, William Carey and George Washington. In 1779 the former, a journeyman shoemaker in a pretty village in the Midlands of England, and eighteen years of age, began to pray and to work daily for the salva-