

truths embodied in these three manifestations are those which the Church wishes to emphasize in her dealing with the heathen world.

She wishes to send forth her missionaries as burning and shining lights to guide the heathen to the feet of Christ; to hush all human voices and make idolatry itself silent, while God aloud declares, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," and lastly to shew the great dark world of sorrow and of shame how Christ can turn the water into wine; how He alone can give it beauty for its ashes, and change the deep waters of its sad despair into the wine of peace and joy and hope.

In considering the great subject of Foreign Missions, we would lay before you certain momentous facts, the gravity of which it is impossible to overstate.

First, Foreign Missions in the Holy Scriptures are indissolubly connected with the present joy and future glory of our ascended Lord.

In the eternal purpose of God, Christ has been made the Head of the heathen. They are His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth are His possession. In accordance with this design our Lord not only solemnly charged His Church to go into all the world, and preach His Gospel to every creature, but He subsequently interposed by Divine revelations to enforce obedience to this command. A majestic vision revealed to St. Peter that he was to break the silence of centuries, and proclaim the Gospel to the Gentile soldier in Caesarea; while a little later, not as the result of any human conference, or even devout wish of the Church, but by the direct command of God the first great Foreign Mission was begun. As certain prophets and teachers, we are told, ministered to the Lord in Antioch, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." In obedience to this command, these men were solemnly set apart and sent forth for this service; and it is immediately added, "So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia." Foreign missions were therefore begun by the direct authority of God the Holy Ghost. "He shall glorify Me," said the Saviour, speaking of the mission of the Comforter. For the glory of the Redeemer He began them; for His glory He sustains them, and to His infinite praise will at last complete them when the harvest of the world is reaped.

Secondly, Foreign Missions have from the first been blessed of God.

All the millions of Great Britain, Europe and America who to-day bow the knee to Christ, are the result of Foreign Missions. Our forefathers once served dumb idols even as they were led. It was the word of the Lord from Jerusalem which first brought them to the knowledge