

VI.—MONTHLY CONCERT OF MISSIONS.

THE following letter is from Dr. James L. Phillips, Chaplain State Institutions, Howard, R. I., a medical missionary "from Midnapore, Bengal, India, now at home on furlough, but earnestly hoping to return to his work abroad, in which it has pleased God to grant him 17 years, and very happy years, too."

REV. ARTHUR T. PIERSON, D.D.:

Dear Brother.—I learn that you are to take up and carry on Mr. Wilder's *Missionary Review*, and I am delighted to know this. From the first number I've read it eagerly, and have done what I could to introduce it to friends in Europe and India. I most earnestly hope that by God's blessing upon your labors it may continue to hold its high place as a thoroughly independent, undenominational, faithful and fearless review of all missionary enterprises, home and foreign. So far as I know, it stands *without a peer*, in its own special province, in Christendom.

I should like to know the plans for the future conduct of the *Review*, with a view to getting our *pastors* to subscribe. Some of our people have been taking it from the first, but hundreds more *ought to*.

Could you devote space in *THE REVIEW* to the *Monthly Concert of Prayer for Missions*, which has fallen into sad neglect during these 20 years? I am continually hearing of Congregational and Presbyterian churches—the two churches that observed it most faithfully years ago, when I was a student in this country—that do not even have the *Missionary Concert*. In this State the Baptists are keeping it up, I think, better than any other church.

My proposition is: Let *THE MISSIONARY REVIEW* consult with *The Gospel in All Lands*, and draw up a *Programme for the Missionary Concerts of 1888*, so that our *pastors* may have ample time to read up and be ready. As dear Dr. Duff used to say, "the hitch is with the *pastors*." What an added power we should gain in all our missionary work, at home and abroad, could we establish, and faithfully sustain, in our American churches such a grand *CONCERT OF PRAYER*, by taking up each month the same general topic, and instructing, interesting and inspiring our congregations with it! I cannot doubt that British Christians would join us in this good movement, for they have held up the monthly concert better than we have in America. Could we not have something like the International Sunday-school lesson—the same verses of Scripture studied in many lands and languages? For months these and kindred thoughts have been revolving in my mind; and the reading of such books as your noble "*Crisis of Missions*" only adds fuel to the fire already kindled. If there be a work in which *ect-lines* must more

and more disappear, it is this great work of the world's evangelization. Christians must come into close fellowship with Christ, be more loyal to His government by keeping His great and last commission, before the "greater things" he spoke of can appear. Believe me, my dear sir,

Yours, with high esteem and very sincerely,
JAS. L. PHILLIPS.

This letter was followed by another from the editor of *Gospel in All Lands*:

NEW YORK, Oct. 27, 1887.

My Dear Dr. Pierson.—I have just learned that you will have charge of the Monthly Concert Department of *THE MISSIONARY REVIEW*. I have been arranging the topics for the Monthly Concerts for 1888 to be treated in *Missionary World* and *Gospel in All Lands*, and a letter from Dr. J. L. Phillips urges me to see if *Gospel in All Lands* and *MISSIONARY REVIEW* cannot agree on topics for next year. I propose those on the enclosed paper. Several are the same as those adopted by the Presbyterians North and South.

EUGENE R. SMITH.

1888.

January—The World.

February—China.

March—Mexico, Central America.

April—India.

May—Burmah, Siam and Laos.

June—Africa.

July—Islands of the Sea, North American Indians, Chinese and Japanese in America, etc.

August—Italy and Papal Europe.

September—Japan and Korea.

October—Turkey and Persia.

November—South America.

December—Syria.

[The above arrangement will be adopted.—EDITORS.]

THE WORLD FIELD.

In looking at the great field of missions, we are first of all overwhelmed with its *vastness*. We talk of continents as covered with the death shade, but how vague are the terms we use.

Let us take Connecticut as the unit of measurement, with its area of 4,700 square miles. It is contained in Dakota 47 times, and Japan is about as large as Dakota. And now we begin to get some definite conception of the Island Empire of the Rising Sun that is just now attracting the attention of the world by changes so radical and revolutionary