

THE GOSPEL IN THE REGIONS BEYOND.

‘To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you.’—2 *Cor.* x. 16.

THESE words contain within them the end and object of Apostolic labour. They are the very echo of the last charge of the Redeemer,—‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.’ To St. Paul, as not among the chosen ones at that time, a similar commission had been afterwards given, when, as he was praying in the Temple, he was in a trance, and saw the Lord, who said to him, ‘Depart, for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.’ In his case we can almost trace each step of future progress, and see how, as long as life lasted, the grand desire seemed ever present—‘to preach the Gospel in the regions beyond.’

In his first missionary journey the area is circumscribed, and embraces only portions of Asia Minor. In his next he is summoned to more extended labour—called from Asia into Europe by the man of Macedonia, who appeared to him in vision and said, ‘Come over and help us.’ Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea, rejoice in turn at the light, and the Apostle passes downwards from them to Athens and to Corinth. Tarrying at the seat of commerce for a longer season, he lays there the foundation of a Christian Church; and, when taken from his converts, he still turns to them with words of warning and encouragement. An Epistle is addressed to them, in which he states his determination ‘to know nothing among them save Jesus Christ and Him cru-