

sin, or its churches frowned upon all evangelical labor. Within living memory, India and China, Turkey and Egypt, Burmah and Persia have all become open. *Africa* has been traversed from end to end ; and as to *Europe*, there are two Baptist churches in Madrid, and dozens of Protestant churches in Italy, while the Gospel is now preached again "at Rome also." The march of Providence, I repeat, has outstripped the progress of the Church.

Or, if that march be measured by other standards than the number of open doors, it is no less striking. When Franklin, the American printer and statesman, proposed for his wife, her mother objected to the marriage, because there were already two presses in America, and she thought there was not room for a third. It is little more than a century since, and there are now *ten thousand* printing offices in that country alone. To reach that Continent required as many weeks as now it takes days. Only thirty years ago to cross from the Atlantic to the Pacific was a six months' journey, perilous and toilsome in the extreme ; now it is pleasantly done between Monday morning and Saturday night ! Any man who has to travel much will save ten weeks out of every twelve ; and if he were to spend his life in traveling, the facilities of travel would practically multiply his years fivefold. Half a century of life spent in travel would now effect as much as two centuries and a half a hundred years ago ! In 1871 I read, in San Francisco, what had been written that morning near Sedan, seven thousand miles away ; and most marvellous, perhaps, of all, I reached that city within a month of leaving home, by the gentlest touch of human hands controlling iron and steam—forces that are among the mightiest that men wield. Yet within eighty years the man who spoke of "steam wagons" was deemed insane, and was helped only because "his invention," it was said, "could do no harm, and might lead to something useful." So it is with everything. The human eye can now see through space millions of miles farther than it could even when we were born. The three thousand or four thousand fixed stars which the apostles saw are now known to be six or seven millions. The yearly income of England is six or eight times larger than at the beginning of the century, and has trebled within thirty years. The effect of all this is that, for openings of Providence, for facilities of usefulness, for material strength and resources, this year of grace 1892 is much further beyond the year 1800 than are the missionary labors of this year beyond the labors of our fathers. The march, the bounty of Providence, has outstripped us all.

What are the feelings in which we ought to indulge ? Devout thankfulness and as devout discontent.

Our labors have been "more abundant," the results are highly encouraging, and yet comparatively very little has been done. In this spirit I shall discuss the subject of missions, under the twofold division : (1) The work itself ; and (2) the extent to which we are to prosecute it. We are to preach the Gospel—that is our *work*, and we are to preach it to every