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“A NEW PROGRAMME OF MISSIONS.”*

BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

History is, to the devout observer, also prophecy. Current events have a predictive value as a hint of coming developments. Our Lord Himself intimates this when He rebukes those who were more careful in watching the weather signals than in observing and interpreting the signs of the times.

Mr. L. D. Wishard, so well known in connection with the international work of the Young Men's Christian Association, has recently launched a new book of modest pretensions upon the world-sea, and it is safe to predict for it no little importance and significance in its mission. It is freighted with instructive lessons and useful suggestions as to the perplexing problem of a world's evangelization. Its novelty lies not in bringing to us any new facts, but in grouping those facts into such impressive arrangement as compels confidence that they are part of a Divine plan, articulated into a system. Dr. Richard S. Storrs, himself a profound student of missionary problems, in his Introduction confesses that he is “impressed by” Mr. Wishard's “statement of facts, by the conclusions which he draws from such facts, and by the bright and vast outlook into the future which his book suggests.”

As Mr. Wishard projects before us a “new programme of missions,” we are bound to give it a careful, critical study. Anything that proposes a new solution to the greatest practical problem ever before the Church is entitled to more than a passing glance. Kepler, in his patient application of eighteen hypotheses to the mystery of the planetary motion, and in his rapturous enthusiasm when he found the key that fitted the lock, saying: “O almighty God, I am thinking Thy thoughts after Thee!” may well furnish a model for the modern student of missions. What a reward to our patience in working and waiting, in trying method after method, if at last

*“A New Programme of Missions,” by Luther D. Wishard. New York: F. L. Revell & Co.