

prospects, it must be remembered that, as a practical question of duty, this hope does not affect the responsibility of the church. It still remains true that without the gospel proclaimed among them by believers, the vast multitude of the heathen will actually perish. This we cannot but believe. While some may be speculating as to the future of those who die unsaved, we prefer to give men the gospel here and now, assured on the authority of God that "it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

A. T. P.

THE editors are more and more satisfied that the views presented in the leading article of the May number, on the "Mission and Commission of the Church," are not only unassailable, but fundamental to a right conception of our work and its success. We venture to print a letter from one of the greatest of the leaders of the missionary host.

DEAR DR. PIERSON:—In the May number of the *MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD*. I read with much interest your editorial on the matter of "evangelization" as distinguished from "conversion" in the foreign field. I was very glad to see the article, as I hope it will correct a good deal of improper language, which we hear in the pulpit and through the press. I have for years been very careful never to speak of the conversion of men as in any sense a human work. That is the prerogative of the Holy Spirit. Evangelization is our work; when that work is well done we may hope and pray for the conversion of men. Of that the Holy Spirit will have all the honor. As long ago as at the annual meeting of the American Board, in 1877, I presented a paper entitled "Claims of the Un-evangelized," in which I endeavored to set forth the truth on this subject. I should be glad to call your attention to the entire

paper; I beg leave to quote one paragraph giving my views:

"Evangelization—the proclaiming of the good news of salvation to all who are ignorant of a Saviour's love and intercession—is our part in the Divine economy of redemption, on which is conditioned the conversion of men by the Holy Spirit. The work includes the Christian college and seminary for the education of a native agency, since every country must be evangelized by its own sons, duly prepared by divine grace, through missionary instruction and example; and it includes a Christian literature for the development and nurture of Christian life and character in new-born souls; but more than all else, it includes the preaching of the word. 'How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach except they be sent?' No miraculous power is to print the Scriptures and scatter them broadcast among the tribes of men. No voice from heaven is to proclaim the message of life in the ear of assembled multitudes. This work has been committed to the church. The final glory is not promised till the gospel has been preached for a witness to all nations. The way must be prepared for the coming of the Lord, for those grander workings of the Spirit, which have been the hope and the joy of the people of God in all the ages, when Christian institutions shall cover the earth, and Christian homes shall be the common heritage of all the children of men."

Grateful for your valuable services in your present field of labor as connected with the progress of the kingdom of God.

Very sincerely yours,

N. G. CLARK.

BOSTON, May 10, 1889.

THE HELL GATE EXPLOSION of October 10, 1884, caused the most intense excitement in New York City. The Brooklyn Bridge was crowded, every available space on the house-tops, the horse cars, the river banks; all the world was on the streets. The explosion took place at 11.13 o'clock A.M., and the progress of the vibration was found to be 1,700 feet per second. There was great fear that the shock might cause disaster to the foundations of buildings, and even the towers of the East River Bridge. Just before 11 o'clock a small band of engineers stood about a small battery near the Astoria Ferry slip, with General Newton, their chief, who fre-