

I am sorry if I have given any just occasion to my Reformed brethren in France to complain that I do not sufficiently distinguish them from their Ultramontane and atheistic countrymen, under whom the wise providence of God permits them at present to be constrained. May enlargement come to them soon, by such a blessing on the Protestants and Reformed Catholics of France as shall bring this great nation into line with our noblest efforts.—CHARLES C. STARBUCK.

The *Dansk Missionsblad* for December, 1889, speaking of the first missionary account rendered by Paul and Barnabas to the Church of Antioch, "how God had opened to the Gentiles a door of faith," remarks:

"When we also look out over the missionary field and observe what comes to pass in east and west and south, in China and India and Africa, we, too, may say the same as Paul and Barnabas, when they returned from the first missionary journey: *God hath opened to the Gentiles a door of faith.* This is the great alteration, which has come to pass in the last generation, that where there previously were locked doors there are now opened doors for the messengers of the gospel. And we know also that missions are God's work by the fact that God is now opening the door of the world so that missions may be carried on. The work can only be done by such men as the Lord calls and qualifies, and in those places where God opens the door for the Word. We are absolutely not to decide where missions are to be carried on, but to observe where the Lord points out the way. And as there is a sinful indifference to the holy work of missions, so there is also a sinful impatience that will insist on going whither the Lord has not sent His messengers, and has not pointed out the way by opening the door. Many noble powers have been sacrificed, many a self-sacrificing effort has been wasted, because Christians would insist on intruding where the Lord had not opened the door.

"... When the first missionary who brought the pure gospel to India, Bartholomew Ziegenbalg, was sent out from Denmark, the voyage from Copenhagen to Tranquebar took up forty weeks. Now it requires forty days. Letters now go from London to Calcutta in from twenty-one to twenty-eight days. Formerly they could be sent, by sailing ship, once in a summer; and if the summer passed without an opportunity, or the ship was wrecked, two or three years might pass before the missionaries had answers to their letters. And what such difficulty of communication signified Ziegenbalg experienced when he had incurred the Danish governor's enmity. All King Frederick the Fourth's personal regard and sincere assurances of protection did not secure him from lying half a year in prison in the distant dependency. Nor was he released until he had signed an agreement that he would make no complaint to the King. And if we turn to the West, as late as 1841, a missionary went from England to Canada, in order from there to reach his station in the interior of British America. But he found no opportunity in Canada and was obliged to return to England, and from there, the next summer, to go around by the glacial waters of the North Atlantic and Hudson's Bay to York, and from there by boat, to journey up the river 170 miles to Winnipeg. At present a railway journey of two or three days from Canada to Winnipeg accomplishes what then required that long and terrible circuit. And when, three years ago, this same missionary died at his station, his death was known the next day by telegraph in England."

—The *Blad's* brief statement of the Lakes missions in Africa may serve afresh to remind us that, according to the law of missionary beginnings, these have not been working fruitlessly—44 stations, 121 missionaries, 1,800 baptisms.

—India has become almost wholly British, but the missionary interests of Denmark are still confined to it. Their two fields are: the Tamils in South India; the Santals in Northeast India. Danes were the first Protestant missionaries in India, and Danes received, sheltered and befriended the first English missionaries in India against the persecutions of their own countrymen. All, therefore, that has been done by Englishmen and Americans for the cause of Christ in India owes a tribute of acknowledgment to our Danish kindred. And so far as we can call to mind, the first Protestant king who was distinctly and definitely, a nursing father of Christian missions, was the King of Denmark.

—In reference to India, however, the *Blad* remarks, that although the country (excepting here and there some native State) has been unlocked since 1813,