

THE

# MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD.

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## I.—LITERATURE OF MISSIONS.

### THE CENTENARY CONFERENCE OF MISSIONS.

SECOND EDITORIAL LETTER FROM REV. A. T. PIERSON, D.D.

LONDON, June 26, 1888.

MY DEAR DR. SHERWOOD :—This great World Council impresses us, so far in history, the climax of a series of astounding developments, which, like a pyramidal structure, have been rising from the ad base laid a century ago in the recognition of duty and debt to a lost world. These developments may especially be noted in seven sections or successive stages. First, there came the *opening of doors* the whole world is now practically open. Then the organization of Missionary Societies and Boards now numbering over two hundred. Then the revival of the doctrine of divine stewardship and the consequent consecration of money; then the multiplication of laborers which the church knows not how to send those that offer. Then the development of the woman's agency in direct mission work. Then the development of a new spirit of united prayer, and now the exhibition of the essential unity of all true disciples in what seems to me the most important and thoroughly ecumenical council that has ever yet assembled. The greatness of this gathering grows upon us all. Babel's tower was reversed at Pentecost—the confusion of tongues that divided and dispersed mankind was offset by the tongues of fire uttering in a single language the wonderful works of God. But here we have an echo even on Pentecost. Then and there, disciples could do nothing but utter the gospel message, each in his own tongue. Here, from the east, west, north, south, the scarred veterans from a thousand campaigns have come up to the metropolis of the world, to translate into our English tongue the stupendous triumphs of this gospel as wrought out on their own eyes, in the isles of the sea, in India and China, Japan, Persia, Armenia, Turkey and Syria, Africa and Papal lands. Although we have reached a climax of development, the topstone of the edifice have yet to be laid before the pyramid of wonders is complete. *The whole world must now be taken possession of and occupied by the gospel.* Without this grandest result, all else is comparatively not accomplished, but is failure. To this end all else points and tends.