

Theology on the Web.org.uk

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



Buy me a coffee

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology>



PATREON

<https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb>

[PayPal](#)

<https://paypal.me/robbradshaw>

A table of contents for *The Churchman* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_churchman_os.php

The Missionary World.

AS the weeks in which the National Mission is to express itself in special meetings throughout England draw near, the missionary aspect of the whole movement impresses itself freshly upon us. Suppose that God in His infinite grace and mercy opens His windows of blessing upon us, what will it mean for the world? Could we ask more than a quickened ministry, an enlightened and consecrated church membership, a national life in which commerce and industry were ennobled and self-interest subordinated to love of our fellow-men? If these things came to pass in England the world would know it. The power of the Gospel message would impel men and women to go forth to proclaim what they had felt of its captivating power; a fresh love for God and man would unlock the resources of the wealthy and double the sacrifices of the poor; redemption of trade would purify the influence of our country in the distant parts of the earth and silence those blatant voices of self-interest which now drown the gentler voice of the Church. "If the National Mission is a movement of the Spirit of God in which a warm stream of love to man is breaking on the cold shores of our lives, then neither an island nor an empire will be the limit of its influence. The evangelization of the world will be, and is, its ultimate goal, and the life which generates here will be felt afterwards in every land."

* * * * *

These words are taken from *Missionary Workers and the National Mission* (National Mission Paper No. 28) just published by the S.P.C.K. It is addressed to those who are already workers for missions abroad, and will be found suggestive and searching. Other National Mission papers directly related to foreign missions are *The Revelation of Spiritual Powers*, by Sir Arthur Hirtzel, K.C.B.; *The World and the Empire*, by Bishop Montgomery; *The Evangelization of the World and the National Mission*, by the Archdeacon of Sheffield; *Foreign Missions as a Soldier sees Them*, by Robert Holmes; *What should our Attitude as Christians be to Indian Nationalism?* by Edwyn Bevan; and *The Christian Gospel*, by J. H. Oldham. We note that three Saturday afternoon Discussions are

to be held at the S.P.G. House on October 7, 14, and 21 on "Which comes first—the National Mission or Work for Missions Abroad?" The subject is being studied in connexion with Mr. Oldham's book, *The World and the Gospel*. Particulars can be had from the Study Department of the S.P.G.

* * * * *

The number of missionary magazines—and the size of some of them—has appreciably lessened this month, but several articles are of quite unusual interest. The Wesleyan *Foreign Field* contains a moving story of a "Hindu Seeker after God," a leading teacher and ascetic who has recently been baptized; the B.M.S. *Herald* has an article on "China's Second Revolution," which marshals important facts helpful both to students and speakers; The *Bible in the World* opens with a thoughtful study of the war as a commentary on the Bible; the U.F.C. *Record* has a paper on "The Joy of Pioneering," by the Rev. Donald Fraser of Nyassaland, which shows one in delightful fashion how far a Scotsman's imagination can range when once he lets it go free; and the S.P.G. *Mission Field* gives us one more of those "Scripture Messages" which hide their visions under a thin veil of anonymity.

* * * * *

Two of the magazines are of such outstanding and varied interest that they stand alone. The L.M.S. *Chronicle*, finding a motto in Rupert Brooke's phrase, "We have beaconed the world's night," sets forth the immediate situation of the London Missionary Society, with the record of a magnificent response to their appeal in the near past and far-reaching possibilities in the near future. As these pages are published a conference which may well become a turning point in the history of the Society will just have come to a close at Swanwick. Among several other living articles we can only notice one, an estimate of the significance of the Indian Evangelistic Campaign by the Rev. H. A. Popley. He finds that this campaign has given new hope and courage to the Indian Church by its fresh revelation of the power of God; it has discovered new opportunities for evangelism and new response; the spirit of prayer, Bible study, and the practice of meditation have been greatly strengthened; various quarrels and factions in the Church have been healed; bands of personal workers have been gathered out and trained; the work of men and women has been brought into

co-operation ; new ideas and methods have been introduced into old work ; laymen have been enlightened as to the real nature of missionary service ; a new sense of social service has been developed ; the Indian Church, in short, has found itself. The article is one which every leader in the National Mission should ponder and lay to heart.

* * * * *

The other magazine which the present writer has read almost from cover to cover with unflagging interest is the September number of *China's Millions*. It is a living record of the power of a living Lord. The account of revival blessing at one station leads on to the story of an evangelistic mission among Chinese women, a special effort to influence newly married Chinese girls for Christ, a united Bible School for helpers and leaders, the story of many individual conversions, remarkable opportunities of preaching the Gospel at the opening ceremony of a boys' school, a self-extending spiritual movement in a girls' school, and an account of the work of an evangelistic band of men and women, foreign and Chinese, delegates from several centres. One of the band had been a Taoist priest for eighteen or nineteen years ; another had been a leading Buddhist vegetarian for over twenty years ; a third had been a carver of idols for twelve years.

* * * * *

Missionaries, American, as well as British, are again gathering round their work in Persia, but in Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine and Turkey difficulties still increase. There is a great separating force at work in the lands of Islam, a parting of Turkey from Arabia and from orthodox Islam. Of this the revolt of the Sherif of Mecca is the outward token, but the division is going forward in every department of life. Sooner or later, perhaps with startling suddenness, it is bound to culminate in a religious revolution in Islam, far other than that Holy War which Germany sought to stir up. The question of the future of the Caliphate must be faced ere long, and Turkey is losing hold. None dare to forecast the details of the future. But it is a time when the Church of Christ should be awake. Fresh responsibilities are bound to come upon us, and if we have not been forward in love and service for Moslems in the past how can we rise to our trust ? Prayer should be earnestly offered for the whole situation, that the moving of the nations and

the clashing of human wills may forward the Will of God and the establishment of His Kingdom upon earth.

* * * * *

Mr. J. H. Harris, ever a ready advocate of the rights of subject peoples, has been collecting evidence as to the way in which the coloured colonials of the British Empire forgot their grievances and rallied to our help on the outbreak of war. A sum of £150,000 has come from communities of the Empire who a generation ago were in the main unable to read or write. The Emirs of Northern Nigeria sent a gift through Sir Frederick Lugard of £38,000; the Alake of Abeokuta sent £500; the great South African chief Khama has given nearly £1,000. Now the dependencies of the Empire are further offering to take up a portion of the war debt in order to relieve taxation. Ceylon has offered to take up £1,000,000, Jamaica £2,400,000, Nigeria £6,000,000, Bermuda £51,700. Since the beginning of the war the Fiji Islands have contributed something like £50,000 towards the various British patriotic funds, a considerable proportion being given by the native Fijians, Indians and other coloured people. The natives of one of the provinces are also raising funds for two motor ambulances to cost £700 or £800. Truly the "grey old Mother" is beloved of her children, and owes them all that a mother can give in return.

* * * * *

Two books recently published should find place in our missionary reading at this time. One is *Friends Abroad*, the Jubilee History of the Friends' Foreign Mission Association, by Dr. Henry Hodgkin, issued in time for the Jubilee celebrations of this month. Though in some respects no Christian body is further from us in its ordinances, none is nearer in spirit than the Society of Friends. Their mission work in Syria, India, China and Madagascar is making a real contribution to the upbuilding of Christian nations. The other is a small volume issued by the Baptist Missionary Society, *Among the Punjab Women*, which is a series of charming sketches of the life and work of a missionary who got close to the heart of India. The book will prove excellent for reading aloud.

G.

