

**THE MIRACLES OF
MISSIONS; OR, THE MODERN
MARVELS IN THE HISTORY
OF MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE**

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The miracles of missions; or, the modern marvels in the history of missionary enterprise by
Arthur T. Pierson

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of Missionary Enterprise

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ARTHUR T. PIERSON



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P R E F A C E.

THE learned and accomplished Theodore Christlieb, D.D., University Preacher and Professor of Theology at Bonn, in his "Modern Doubt and Christian Belief," says: "We cannot fully admit the proposition that no more miracles are performed in our day. In the history of modern missions we find many wonderful occurrences which unmistakably remind us of the apostolic age. In both periods there are similar hindrances to be overcome in the heathen world, and similar palpable confirmations of the Word are needed to convince the dull sense of man. We may, therefore, *expect* miracles in this case."

Professor Christlieb then proceeds to cite

the history of Hans Egede, the first evangelical missionary in Greenland, who, before he had mastered the language of the Esquimaux, had given them a pictorial representation of the miracles of Christ. His hearers, who, like many in Christ's own day, had a perception only for bodily relief, challenged him to prove the power of his Redeemer upon their sick people. With many prayers and sighs he ventured to lay his hands upon the sick, prayed over them and bade them to be whole, in the name of Jesus Christ, and in scores of instances they were healed. It would seem as though, in this case, the Lord was not able to reveal himself to this mentally blunted and stunted race by means merely spiritual, and that bodily signs were needful. Prof. Christlieb mentions similar instances occurring in the lives of the Moravian missionaries Spangenberg and Zeisberger, at the Rhenish Mission Station in South Africa, as stated in the memoir of Kleinschmidt, and in the history of the Waldenses, and especially at the station of La Balsille, their mountain fortress. He refers to the story of the Moravian missionary ship "Harmony," etc., and he remarks that, to deny the spiritual element in

these and similar cases will not enable us to escape miracles, but only compel us to believe in greater prodigies.

These observations of Dr. Christlieb have suggested the somewhat emphatic title of this book. We have chosen to call it "The Miracles of Missions," notwithstanding the objections frequently urged to the use of the word "miracles"; for it must be remembered that a miracle, as the word indicates, is nothing more nor less than a wonder to which God appeals as a sign of divine presence and power; and all that we mean by this term as now used is that, in the history of modern missions, there are amazing wonders of divine interposition and human transformation which admit of no adequate explanation if we deny the divine element.

The author would simply add, before presenting a few of these instances somewhat in detail, that the impression with which he began these studies, now more than thirty years ago, has daily and hourly increased as these studies have been further prosecuted. With these prefatory remarks we submit to the candid judgment of the reader the testimony of missionary biography and history,

assured that candor will compel every honest observer to confess, like Pharaoh's magicians, Truly this is THE FINGER OF GOD !

ARTHUR T. PIERSON.

2320 SPRUCE STREET, PHILADELPHIA,
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THE MIRACLES OF MISSIONS.



No. I.

THE APOSTLE OF THE SOUTH SEAS.



AMONG the Old Testament forecasts of missionary labor is this—"The isles shall wait for his law."¹ This has been literally fulfilled in the South Sea Archipelago.

The name of John Williams is closely identified with this story of missionary heroism and success. Born, June 29, 1796, and murdered at Dillons Bay, Erromanga, November 20, 1839, his life covers only forty-three years, but it abounds in proofs of the divine interposition and wonder-working. At twenty years of age he offered himself to the London Missionary Society, and was sent to

¹ Isajah xlii : 4.