

**CHRISTIAN
MISSIONS IN
THE FAR EAST**

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Christian missions in the Far East by H. H. Montgomery & Eugene Stock

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H. H. MONTGOMERY & EUGENE STOCK

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MISSIONS IN
THE FAR EAST**

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS
IN THE FAR EAST.

ADDRESSES ON THE SUBJECT

DELIVERED BY THE

RIGHT REV. H. H. MONTGOMERY, D.D.,

AND

EUGENE STOCK, ESQ.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE TRACT COMMITTEE.

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PREFACE.

THESE lectures were given in the Hoare Memorial Hall, at the Church House, on November 29, December 6, and December 13, 1904, to members of the London Diocesan Church Reading Union, The Women's and Girls' Diocesan Association, and the Association for Missionary Study. The Bishop of London presided on December 6, and the Archdeacon of London on the 13th.

We trust that in these lectures on the people of two great and independent empires there is nothing that savours of patronage. No one should be so respectful, so courteous to all, of whatever faith or colour, as the English gentleman. The more convinced he is of the truth as revealed in the Bible, the more tender he should be towards the real belief of any one whatsoever, whether barbarous or civilised; and the more willing he will be to look for graces in others which we by nature lack. May the day come speedily when all races shall have begun to bring to the Body of Christ their special contribution. East, West, North, and South, each having its place under the One Lord.

H. H. M.

CONTENTS.



LECTURE.	PAGE.
I. THE FAR EAST BY BISHOP MONTGOMERY.	5
II. CHINA BY EUGENE STOCK.	22
III. JAPAN BY EUGENE STOCK.	58

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CHRISTIAN MISSIONS IN THE FAR EAST.

LECTURE I.

THE FAR EAST.

BY BISHOP MONTGOMERY.

WE stand almost upon what we call the dividing line of two centuries. No one who looks backwards as well as forwards from such a position can fail to be struck by the manner in which the interest of the world has suddenly shifted from one continent to another. Look backwards, and it is Africa which looms large for the last sixty years. It was practically discovered in those years, then gradually partitioned among three or four white races, who imagine, more or less unconsciously, that Africa never can stand by itself or be aught but the appanage of an European empire. And certainly that mysterious continent does contain one race which has no intention of dying out, and yet remains a race of children, giving scarcely a sign of their

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coming of age. My own belief is, that for a century at least, Africa will sleep, silently imbibing everywhere European influences. After that, our descendants may be met with surprises almost as great as those which meet us to-day in Asia, and they will reap what we have sown.

The twentieth century sees the general interest shift from Africa to Asia. The East awakes. For the first time in modern history the nations of the West have discovered that there is to be a limit to their conquests in Asia. Many are vexed, as though it were an unwarrantable impertinence upon the part of any race that is not white to have an independent existence. I have already indicated that I believe further surprises are in store for white races, even in connection with those whose colour is of the darkest ; but the time has not yet arrived for that.

Meanwhile, it is the West, of course, which has been educating the East. Perhaps we thought that the East was for ever to be pondering, whilst we utilized them for our purposes. But at length she has lifted up her head, having learnt much from us—without question she has utilized the West. But it is not only science and trade and modern civilization which has effected, and is still to effect, such striking results in the Far East. I believe that the wave of spiritual progress, which has ever moved westward, is about to reach the shores of Japan in our own time. If Mesopotamia is the cradle (so far as we know anything about

it) of civilized man, you can trace from Abraham's day the whole course of that wave up to the present moment. The growth of historic monotheism was the fruit of Abraham's journey westward. The knowledge of the fulness of God's nature, of the Trinity in Unity, was the next step marked by the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem westward. Then Greece, Rome, Western Europe, America—all were touched by that force. In America the wave was stayed for a while, till Africa felt it southward. Now, once more, I verily believe we are to witness the next step in this westward movement, and one as momentous as any of which we have had any experience as yet. It will touch Japan first, then China: after that I can see no further. And this is why Christian men look with such intensity towards the Far East to-day. We are dealing with a sensitive nation, and have no desire to patronize it. Rather, we turn to God and ask Him, "Is it indeed to be so, O Lord? Is it that Thou art about to teach us that Thou art not dead? Just when some in these lands had begun again to laugh at the idea that the Gospel still had power as of old, wert Thou preparing for Thy resistless march in the same direction as of old, the sun in the heavens guiding Thine host on earth in Thy march."

At all events, the statement of such a possibility arrests the attention of every believer, and the first effect is one of humbling upon our own part. Are we worthy, are we deep enough, believing