

**THE MISSIONARY PROBLEM: CONTAINING A
HISTORY OF PROTESTANT MISSIONS IN SOME
OF THE PRINCIPAL FIELDS OF MISSIONARY
ENTERPRISE. TOGETHER WITH A HISTORICAL
AND STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF THE RISE AND
PROGRESS OF MISSIONARY SOCIETIES IN THE
NINETEENTH CENTURY**

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The missionary problem: containing a history of Protestant missions in some of the principal fields of missionary enterprise. Together with a historical and statistical account of the rise and progress of missionary societies in the nineteenth century by James Croil

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JAMES CROIL

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*HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF THE RISE AND PROGRESS
OF MISSIONARY SOCIETIES IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.*

By JAMES CROIL,
MONTREAL.

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P R E F A C E .

THE following chapters were prepared for publication in another form, and have already had a large circulation. The favourable reception which they met with from the Missionary Press, and the request of many friends that they should be given to the public in a more permanent shape, have induced the author to revise and reprint them. They are intended to supply a want that has been long felt, namely, a concise yet comprehensive sketch of the rise and progress of Protestant missionary effort in heathen countries, from a purely undenominational standpoint. A great deal has already been written on this subject, but chiefly in the form of biography, or the record of individual experience in given fields, or of missionary work carried on by particular societies or sects.

The sources from which information has been derived will be indicated as the narrative proceeds. But it is proper to say that our chief authority for the earlier times is *Brown's History of Missions*, a valuable and elaborate work in three volumes, published in 1864, and now out of print. Compared with the magnitude of the subject, this little treatise is a very meagre and incomplete outline ; but to have attempted more would probably defeat the writer's main object, by placing it beyond the reach of the class of readers for whose perusal it has chiefly been compiled. Such as it is, however, it is humbly dedicated to the cause of Missions, in the hope that it may prove acceptable to those who are already interested in the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom ; and useful, in however small a degree, in awakening greater interest in behalf of a work which has been so abundantly blessed in the past, and which demands the consecrated activities and the hearty co-operation of all God's people for its final and complete accomplishment.

J. C.



THE MISSIONARY PROBLEM.

CHAPTER I.

THE MISSIONARY PROBLEM.*

"The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea,"—*Isaiah* xi. 9.

THER missions have their appointed bounds. The field of Foreign Missions is THE WORLD. The marching orders of the Christian Host as it advances to conquest are the words of its Great Commander,—“Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel

* AROUND THE WORLD TOUR OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONS, by W. F. Bainbridge; Boston, 1882; \$2.00. PROTESTANT FOREIGN MISSIONS, by Theodore Christlieb, D.D.; Boston, 1880; 75 cents. THE MISSIONARY WORLD, by Rev. W. Meister; London, 1872; \$2.00. MODERN MISSIONS, by Robert Young; London, 1881; \$1.50. THE NEW HEBRIDES AND CHRISTIAN MISSIONS, by Robert Steel, D.D.; London, 1880; \$2.00. MISSIONARY LIFE AMONG THE CANNIBALS, by Rev. George Patterson, D.D.; Toronto, 1882; \$1.50. TAHITI, WITH AND WITHOUT THE GOSPEL, American Sunday School Union, Philadelphia; \$1.00. THE GREAT CONQUEST, by F. F. Ellinwood; New York, 1876; 60 cents. THE GOSPEL IN ALL LANDS, by Eugene R. Smith, New York; a weekly Missionary Magazine; \$2.00 per annum. THE MISSIONARY REVIEW, by Rev. R. G. Wilder; Princeton, N. J.; a Bi-monthly Magazine of Missions; \$1.50 per annum.

to every creature;" to which is added for the encouragement of all, in every age, who should enlist in the service,—"Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

Before entering upon the history of modern missionary enterprise, let us survey the field, measuring as well as we can the numerical strength of the opposing forces. The population of the world is estimated by the German statisticians, Behm and Wagner, at 1,433,887,500, distributed as follows: in Asia, 795,591,000; in Europe, 327,743,400; in Africa, 205,823,200; in America, 100,415,400; in Polynesia and Australia, 4,232,000; in the Polar regions, 82,500.

The emuneration by religions is computed by reliable authorities to stand as nearly as can be ascertained in the following order:—

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Jews..... | 7,000,000 |
| Mohammedans..... | 170,000,000 |
| Hindus, including aboriginal races..... | 175,000,000 |
| Buddhists, Confucionists, Taoists, Shintoos and Jains | 508,000,000 |
| Pagans (such as have no books)..... | 170,000,000 |
| Others not enumerated..... | 3,335,900 |
| Total Heathens..... | 1,033,335,900 |
| | |
| Roman Catholics..... | 200,315,000 |
| Protestants..... | 115,218,000 |
| Greek Church..... | 77,958,000 |
| Armenians, Copts, Abyssians, etc..... | 4,589,000 |
| Unenumerated..... | 2,461,000 |
| Total Christians..... | 400,541,000 |

It is thus seen that very nearly three-fourths of the human race are either entirely ignorant of Jesus Christ, or refuse to accept as their Saviour Him of whom it is affirmed upon unquestionable authority,—“There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” The organized Protestant forces at the present time contending against heathenism are represented by upwards of seventy Missionary Societies, aided by innumerable auxiliary associations, and very closely connected with the great Bible and Tract Societies of Britain and America. In the service of these societies there are 2,829 European and American ordained ministers, 2,271 native ordained missionaries, and 21,684 evangelists and teachers; in all, 26,784 Christian labourers. Not to speak of millions of heathen converts who have died in the faith, there are at the present time 568,653 communicants, and about 2,000,000 adherents under the care of these missionaries. In their 12,000 Mission Schools they have 390,197 scholars. The annual amount expended by the various Missionary Societies is about \$8,000,000, to which must be added about \$750,000 by Women's Societies. Such, in brief, are the data as to what has been done during the present century, and what remains to be done. If the supreme need of the world is Christianity, how shall the desired consummation be most speedily effected? Is there enough in the record of the past on which to predicate ultimate success, or does experience shew that the advocates of Foreign Missions