

**FAR HENCE: A BUDGET
OF LETTERS FROM OUR
MISSION FIELDS IN ASIA**

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Far hence: a budget of letters from our mission fields in Asia by Henry N. Cobb

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HENRY N. COBB

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IN THE DESERT

FAR HENCE

A BUDGET OF LETTERS FROM OUR
MISSION FIELDS IN ASIA

BY

HENRY N. COBB, D. D.

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AUTHOR'S NOTE.

It was never the intention or expectation of the writer that the letters contained in this volume should see the light otherwise than in the columns of the *Christian Intelligencer*, in which they originally appeared. Hastily written, as a running record of a tour made with a specific object in view and with certain definite limitations, they have seemed to him too narrow in their scope and incomplete in contents, to afford matter of general interest. He does not otherwise view them now. But it has been so strongly represented to him that their publication in their present form might be of use in increasing among our churches the interest felt in our missions in Asia, and the desire for such publication has been so often and so kindly expressed, that he has no choice but freely to yield his own judgment to that of others who are entitled to and have his highest regard. Especially is this true of the Woman's Board, at whose request they are given to the press. Had he the necessary time they should have been subjected to careful revision and enlargement. But he has not. Such as they were originally they must remain, and are here presented. If the Lord shall own them, in any small degree, for the advancement of His work, the importance, success and blessedness of which have grown upon him immeasurably by reason of the experiences which they record, the writer will be more than satisfied.

H. N. C.

INSCRIPTION.

To those ladies of the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America, whose generous kindness made the journey recorded in them possible, these letters are gratefully inscribed.

INTRODUCTION.

"AND when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.—Col. iv, 16.

Our New Testament would have been much smaller if it had not been the habit of the apostle to write letters to the churches and the disciples, and it would have been larger by at least one letter had not the letter to the Laodiceans been lost.

This little book binds together some letters written to all our churches. Those who have already read the letters, will the more value the volume that collects them. Those who have not, will find them a literature of much significance to our Reformed Churches.

They are the word sent back to us by our Secretary from our mission stations in foreign lands, while he was visiting among them. Upon him daily had come, for many years, the care of all these churches, and to go to visit them, to see the workers at their work, to see the fruit of their toil and the needs of their days, has given him words for us that will quicken our sense of their need of us together with him.

We feel, perhaps, had we passed on the road to Jericho the man "wounded and bleeding and half dead," we would have acted the part of the Good Samaritan. But we forget it was not inhumanity, that made the priest and the Levite cross to the other side, but the *prejudices* of an *unenlightened religious education*. They had passed by the teaching of "judgment and mercy and the love of God," and so they passed by the man who had fallen among thieves.

INTRODUCTION.

A thoughtful knowledge in the minds of those who are called Christians, of the *mission* of Christianity in the world, would keep us from such blind passing by of the needs of men and women and from an unsympathetic neglect of those who are working for them.

May these letters bring so vividly to us the work of those who are bringing the "Gospel to them that are bound" that our part in furthering the work will be done with more heartiness and hopefulness than ever before. Work for the world! That Christianity of to-day may appear better in the eyes of the future, than Judaism in the parable of the Good Samaritan. M. B. L.

