

**THE PHILOSOPHY
OF MISSION: A
PRESENT-DAY PLEA**

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The Philosophy of Mission: A Present-Day Plea by T. E. Slater

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A PRESENT-DAY PLEA.

BY
T. E. SLATER
(*Of the London Missionary Society*).



THE DESIRE OF ALL NATIONS SHALL COME.—*Haggai* ii. 7.

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—
1882.

133. f. 114.

To the Memory
OF
A BELOVED AND HONOURED FATHER,
ALWAYS A WARM FRIEND OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

PREFACE.

SOME portions of this little book—about one-third of the whole—appeared a few months ago in a series of papers in the *Christian World*, the object having been to show the continued necessity for Missionary work under the new conditions of the time. These papers having awakened interest in various quarters, it has been suggested that some service to the Missionary cause might be rendered by publishing them in their present and considerably expanded form.

While the claims of Foreign Missions generally evoke a warm response, they yet fail, in too many cases, to enlist that intelligent sympathy which, as the grandest of the Church's ministries, they should everywhere secure. This want of interest is, no doubt, due, in part, to the unsettlement of theological thought; more largely, perhaps, to a misapprehension of the nature of Missionary work in the present day, and to a very limited grasp of the reasons that should impel us, as British Christians, to prosecute it. Hence there may not unfrequently be observed a disposition to disparage Missions and Missionary Meetings; as also to "look down" upon those dark races,

whose ancient faiths and culture are so imperfectly understood.

In these pages an attempt is made to re-state, in harmony with present-day knowledge and thought, the grand reasons for Foreign Missions; to indicate broadly their *rationale*; to raise the great and good cause to a higher level; and to show that it ought not to suffer in the estimation of thoughtful persons from the current theories of the future life. Copious citations from writers of authority have been purposely made, to win for the views herein advocated a larger influence and respect, and to point younger readers to sources of information they may advantageously consult.

The "failure" of missionaries is still openly alleged, as seen in some recent correspondence in the *Times* (August 23rd, 1882), which appeared while these pages were passing through the Press; and it is satisfactory to find that such adverse criticism has been anticipated, and, in some measure, answered.

In a few days the writer again leaves his native land and proceeds to Bangalore, in South India, to resume missionary labour amongst the Hindus. If this plea for the great enterprise he humbly strives to serve shall stir a more lively sympathy for it amongst Christian friends at home, his object will have been abundantly attained.

T. E. S.

BATH, *September 7th*, 1882.