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THE

FOREIGN MISSIONARY;

HIS FIELD AND HIS WORK.

BY

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TO
ALL CANDIDATES
FOR THE
CHRISTIAN MINISTRY
THIS WORK IS
AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

THIS book embodies the results of about eighteen years of personal experience and observation in the foreign mission field, as well as of much missionary reading and thinking. The works to which the author has been most indebted are, "The Great Commission, or the Christian Church Constituted and Charged to convey the Gospel to the World," by Rev. John Harris, D. D., and "Foreign Missions, their Relations and Claims," by Rev. Rufus Anderson, D. D.

The present stage of missionary progress, and the culture of the age, evidently require a more complete and scientific treatment of the missionary scheme, than that to be found in memoirs, or in sketches of particular fields, or in isolated addresses, sermons or appeals. The novelty and romance of missions have passed away. Hence, what is now demanded

by intelligent Christian readers of missionary productions, is not merely amusing or thrilling narratives, nor pathetic appeals, nor grandiloquent generalizations and speculations respecting the "glorious missionary enterprise," but reliable facts and fundamental principles. In the present work, the aim has been to present the main facts and principles of missions, in a plain but systematic and thorough manner, and at the same time the endeavor has been to give the whole as practical a bearing as possible. Appeal has been made not so much to the sympathies and emotions, as to Christian principle and the spirit of obedience to Christ. The missionary enterprise, having passed through its difficult period of incipency, its "heroic age," and nearly through its "played out" or "old story" period, seems now to be entering upon its fourth and most healthy and efficient stage of progress, in which missions shall be prosecuted, not from novelty or sympathy or spasmodic impulse, but from an abiding sense of obligation founded on the love of Christ and the will of God.

Some peculiarities in the style and mode of treatment of the subject of this work, are accounted for by the fact that the substance of it was originally delivered in the form of lectures before the students of several theological seminaries.

It is the hope and prayer of the author, that this humble attempt to throw light upon some points and solve some problems connected with the work of missions, as well as add something to our missionary literature adapted to the age and to the present stage of missionary progress, may serve to deepen the missionary spirit, and stimulate zeal and activity in the great work of evangelizing the world, among both pastors and churches.

M. J. K.

Philadelphia, June 10th, 1872.

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