

# BOOK REVIEWS

---

## I. MISSIONS AND THEOLOGY.

**The Spread of Christianity in the Modern World.** By Edward Caldwell Moore, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals in Harvard University, Chairman of the Board of Preachers to the University, and President of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The University of Chicago Press, 1919. xi-352 pp. \$2.00 net.

The student of the history of modern Christian missions comes to this volume with eager hopefulness. A new, worthy history in this field is greatly needed. This volume encourages in two ways. Its "Prefatory Note" gives hope that we shall soon be able to get the author's Dale Lectures of 1913 on "The expansion of Christendom and the Naturalization of Christianity in the Orient in the Nineteenth Century", publication of which was delayed by the war. Certain material of the Lectures is, in a way, incorporated in this and it is intended by the author that the two volumes shall supplement each other. In this we get a sample, a very pleasing sample, of what we expect in the larger and more important volume.

The author's world view, his knowledge of the great movements and factors in history, his clarity of statement and balance of perspective satisfy and instruct. One gets the impression of following a safe interpreter. The work does not undertake a detailed history of the rise of missionary interest and its organization for practical effectiveness. It does give the determinative events and facts. Its great value lies in the comprehensive views of the modern historical movements and of Christian expansion in the midst of and as part of these movements.

The second Part of our volume, pp. 105-317, essays a "History of the Christian Movement with Indications of the Present

Situation in Different Lands''. It is too brief for complete satisfaction but is characterized by breadth of view and fine handling of the general features. It is to be regretted that the author was not more careful to gain accurate information as to details. We need not multiply examples. Any well informed reader will know that the statement on page 288 is very defective when we read that "Congregationalists and Baptists \* \* \* have missions in Mexico, the Presbyterians and the Southern Methodists in Brazil. The missionary society of the Protestant Episcopal Church of America has work in Brazil." It would have been better not to have named the denominations at work in these countries than to have left so many important omissions.

In Part I examples of inaccuracy are such as designating William Carey "the Northampshire cobbler" (p. 94), and referring to him (p. 115) as "preacher in a Baptist church at Moulton after 1786". His more important pastorate at Leicester, from which he went to India, is overlooked.

The statement (p. 87) that Judson returned from India to the United States and founded the American Baptist Missionary Union is erroneous in both material statements. One would expect better information about so important a pioneer in the missionary movement.

To attribute the student volunteer propoganda among American colleges and universities (p. 101) to the Y. M. C. A. is, to say the least, a very defective way of putting it.

When (p. 318) our author says: "Of the mere proclamation of the gospel in all the world we have nearly made an end", it is difficult to escape a feeling that the statement is ill-advised, even when qualified by the further statement that "of the Christianizing of the world according to the gospel \* \* \* we have hardly done more to make a beginning."

The upshot is that we have a very fine interpreter of the broad facts and general features of missionary history but one who needs to cultivate accuracy in dealing with details. If these defects can be overcome in later editions we shall have one of our best volumes on this subject.

W. O. CARVER.