

## LORD SALISBURY AND THE MISSIONARIES.

At the bicentenary meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, held recently in Exter Hall, London, Lord Salisbury made a speech that has attracted a good deal of attention. After saying that at the Foreign Office missionaries were not the most popular people in the world, he proceeded:

"We are startled when we read the history in old times of the vast and sudden conversions which seemed to sweep over a race or a country in obedience to the teachings of the early missionaries of Christianity, and we wonder whether it will ever be that phenomena of so striking a character will take place in our time, but then we must recognize that the position is entirely different.

In the church of old times great evangelists went forth to their work exposing themselves to fearful dangers, suffering all the terrors that the world could inflict—all in support of the doctrine they preached and the morality they practised. If an evangelist or an apostle—Boniface or a Columba—preached in the middle ages he faced the difficulties, he underwent the martyrdom, he braved the torments to which he was exposed and the whole of the great moral and spiritual influence of his self-devotion acted without hindrance on the people whom he addressed. But now if a Boniface or a Columba is exposed to this martyrdom the result is an appeal to a Consul or to the mission of a gunboat, and unfortunately, though it cannot be helped, though it is a blame to nobody though far indeed from being a blame to our devoted missionaries though I cannot admit it is a blame to the secular Government by whom their fate is avenged—still it does diminish the purely spiritual aspect and action of Christian teaching; it does give to men the opportunity and the temptation to attach a different meaning to that preaching, and to suspect it of objects which are far indeed as far from the thoughts of those who urge it. (Cheers.) They have a proverb in the east:—"First the missionary, then the Consul, then the General." (A laugh.) That, as a matter of fact, has too often been the case. That is to say, it is true, and it could hardly be avoided, that those nations which are the most active in their missionary work are also marked by the constant expansion of their frontiers. This cannot be avoided. You must accept it; but do not hide from yourselves that it is a great hindrance to your work and that while secular results of this character follow from the results of Christian teaching, the Christian faith and the Christian cross do not shine upon the people of the world with the unblemished splendor with which they shone in old times.

Just look at this Chinese matter. You observe that all the people who are slaughtered are Christians. Do you imagine that they are slaughtered simply because the Chinese disliked their religion? There is no nation in the world so indifferent to the subject of religion as the Chinese. It is because they and other nations have got the idea that missionary work is a mere instrument of the secular Government in order to achieve the objects it has in view. That is a most dangerous and terrible snare. I need not say it is utterly unjust, and that no men could be more devoted, more free from secondary motives, than the missionaries who leave these shores; but the fact that it is so does not diminish the reality of the danger which arises from the suspicion—a suspicion whose operation you now see in such terrible and blood-stained characters at the moment when I speak to you."

It was the duty, he said, of the missionaries to temper their devotion and enthusiasm with caution and prudence. "Remember that in old times, if an evangelist gave himself up to martyrdom he secured the crown for which he looked, and he did not injure his cause or those whose interests he represented; but now any man who so conducts himself that his zeal leads to martyrdom incurs also this danger—that he will cause the shedding of the blood of his own countrymen, of the soldiers and sailors by whom his countrymen are defended, and who, for the sake of those fellow-countrymen, and in order to avoid similar, or even worse, outrages in the future, will be forced to enter upon military and hostile proceedings in order to avenge their death and prevent such outrages being repeated.

Many warnings have reached me. Those warnings are always exaggerated, and I do not attach much importance to them. But still, careless action on the part of the British missionaries in a Mohammedan country may, without any moral fault on their part, light a flame which it may be hard for them even to suppress. And remember that in these Mohammedan countries you are not dealing with men who are wholly evil; you are dealing with men who have religious motives, earnest in many respects, terribly misled in others, but a religion that has portions of our own embodied in its system. You are dealing with a force which a pure, though mistaken, theism gives to a vast population. You will not convert them—I do not say you will never do so. God knows I hope that

that is far from our fears. But, dealing with the events of the moment, I think that your chances of conversion, as proved by our experience, are infinitely small compared to the danger of creating great perils and of producing serious convulsions, and maybe of causing bloodshed which will be a serious and permanent obstacle to that Christian religion which we desire above all things to preach. This is a danger that you must bear in mind.

He earnestly urged them, as an element of Christian duty to abstain from all appearance of any attempted violence in their religion, to abstain if possible from undue publicity wherever misconstruction is likely to be placed on their action. I only will urge you to remember that the world, however slowly—I might say at this moment very slowly—is travelling to the point where the government of all races will be done not by organized force, but by regulated and advancing public opinion, and you have in your hands one of the most powerful and sacred levers that ever acted opinion, and it will be not only dependent on the zeal, but also on the wisdom and Christian prudence with which you work the instrument, that the great results for which we all pray may be achieved.

The Bishop of Albany seconded the motion, and Sir John Kennaway, M. P., speaking as President of the church Missionary Society, supported it, and it was carried unanimously. Sir John remarked that though missionary workers should give attention to what Lord Salisbury had said, yet he urged them not to be timid.

### A MOTHER'S OPINION.

Mrs. J. Saelling, Underwood, Ont., says that she had used Dr. Low's Pleasant Worm Syrup in her family for the past eight years, and she knows of nothing so good for children who suffer from worms.

At last she smiled and Spoke.

"Anything wrong?" asked the hotel clerk of the New York drummer who had just got home from the West.

"I was thinking," was the reply. "I rode from Toledo to Buffalo with the prettiest girl I ever saw."

"But that didn't hurt you. Who was she?"

"Can't tell."

"You didn't introduce yourself and get her card in return?"

"No."

"No particular trouble, eh?" solicitously insisted the clerk.

"Well, it was this way," replied the traveller, as he braced up for the explanation. "She sat opposite me, you know, and I tried for an hour to catch her eye. She simply ignored me and gazed out of the window. Then I rose and handed her a magazine, but she declined with thanks. Ten minutes later I bought the latest novel out, but she said she didn't care to read. Then I bought some fruit, but she would except none. She also ignored me when I tried to draw her out on music."

"But you persisted?"

"Oh yes, that is, I was about to make another attempt to enter into conversation when the train came to a halt at a town, and the girl beckoned me over. I was there in an instant, and with the sweetest smile you ever saw she asked me if I would do her a slight favor."

"With all my heart," I hastened to say.

"Well," she said, smiled even more sweetly, "suppose you leave the train here and take the next one that follows, for you have made me dead tired and I feel like taking a nap."

Good gracious," whispered the clerk.

"Yes sir," said the drummer, as he reached for a cigar, "and I want to go up to my room and sit and think and try and figure it out. Perhaps it's time I left the road and settled down at home."—Buffalo Courier.

### HAGYARD'S YELLOW OIL

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Out in Indiana.

An old lady, summoned as a witness, came into court wearing a large poke bonnet. Her answers to the questions put to her being rather indistinct, the court requested her to speak louder, but without success.

"The court cannot hear a word you say, good women," said the judge. "Please to take off that huge bonnet of yours."

"Sir," she said, composedly, the court has a right to bid a gentleman to take off his hat, but it has no right to make a lady remove her bonnet."

"Madam," replied the judge, "you seem so well acquainted with the law that I think you had better come up and take a seat with us on the bench."

"I thank you honor kindly," she responded (dropping a low courtesy) to the court, "but there are old women enough there already."—Our Dumb Animals.

In the Museum.

The Giant—What has become of the strong man that could lift a horse?

The Midget—I don't know. The last time I saw him he was trying to raise a dollar.—Chicago News.

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### The Banana.

The banana is said to have 34 times the nutritive value of the potato and 25 times that of bread. In the West Indies the natives cut the fruit into strips called "pegs," dry these in the sun and grind them into flour, out of which many excellent dishes are made. No cheaper food grows in the tropics. The plant begins bearing 14 months after being planted. It requires no cultivation and produces harvests uninterruptedly for 11 years. A few feet of ground nourishes a plant, and the space of a dooryard will grow plants enough to maintain a large family.

### Scurvy.

Science has come to the conclusion that scurvy is caused by the impoverished condition of the blood, and that, in turn, is caused by poor food, and especially by tainted meat. It used to be considered that scurvy was caused by the want of fresh vegetables or lime juice, but it is known now that the eating of salted or improperly preserved meat or tainted meat in any form can produce scurvy even when lime juice or vegetables are being taken at the same time.

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