

**THE CHRISTIAN CONQUEST OF
ASIA: STUDIES AND PERSONAL
OBSERVATIONS OF ORIENTAL
RELIGIONS: BEING THE MORSE
LECTURES OF 1898**

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JOHN HENRY BARROWS

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Morse Lectures

- 1893—THE PLACE OF CHRIST IN MODERN THEOLOGY. By Rev. A. M. Fairbairn, D.D. 8vo, \$2.50.
- 1894—THE RELIGIONS OF JAPAN. By Rev. William Elbot Griffie, D.D. 12mo, \$2.00.
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THE CHRISTIAN CONQUEST OF ASIA

STUDIES AND PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS OF
ORIENTAL RELIGIONS

Being the *Morse Lectures* of 1898

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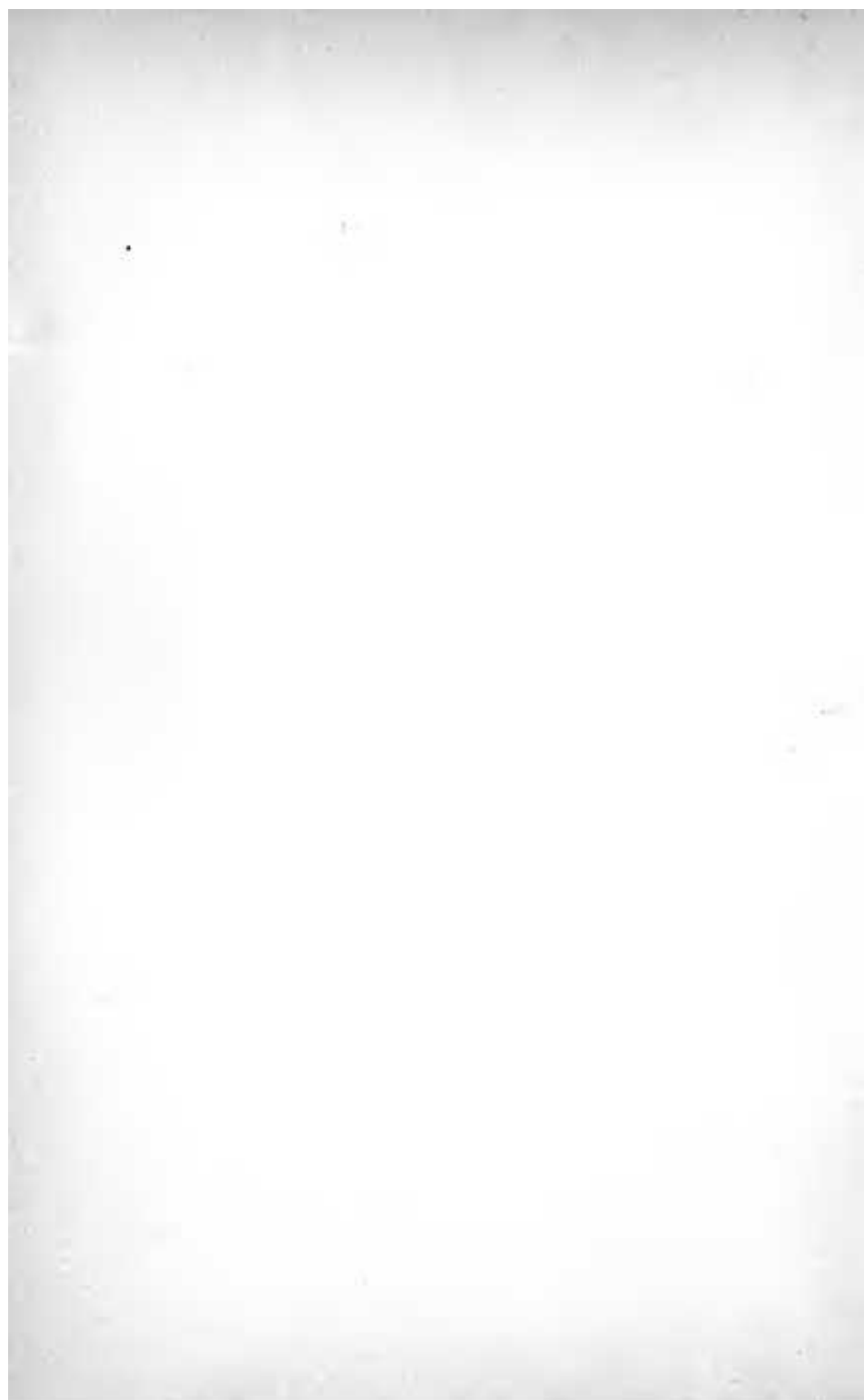
THE EXPERIENCED MISSIONARY, TRUSTED COUNSELLOR

BROAD-MINDED CHRISTIAN AND FAITHFUL FRIEND

I DEDICATE THIS VOLUME WITH HAPPY

AND GRATEFUL MEMORIES

OF INDIA



PREFACE

THE Christian Conquest of Asia began with the coming of Jesus Christ and the first proclamation of His Gospel, but the great continent has not been the chief arena for the working of the Christian forces which the world's Saviour set in motion. Christianity, which made such rapid conquests in Asia Minor, became stereotyped dogmatically and ecclesiastically; its missionary energies were dried up, and after a few centuries it came into conflict with the more aggressive monotheism of Islâm. The last hundred years have witnessed the efforts of the purer and more life-giving Christianity of Europe and America to re-enter the wide Asiatic world. India, China and Japan had, at various times, been fields for missionary activities, but those efforts were sporadic, were often unspiritual, and sometimes were almost completely stamped out. Since the fourth, and possibly an earlier century, there has been a Christian church in India, but it never possessed the elements needed to grapple with the various strong and ancient systems of non-Christian faith.

Until Protestant missionary work, with its schools, its hospitals, its purer ideals and its aggressive energy, made its way into Western Asia, and into the lands of the East and Far East, the Asiatic world may almost be said to have missed any accurate knowledge of that apostolic type of the Christian religion which is pure