

**THE MIRACLES OF MISSIONS:
OR, THE MODERN MARVELS IN
THE HISTORY OF MISSIONARY
ENTERPRISE. SECOND SERIES**

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The Miracles of Missions: Or, The Modern Marvels in the History of Missionary Enterprise.
Second Series by Arthur T. Pierson

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ARTHUR T. PIERSON

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of Missionary Enterprise

BY
ARTHUR T. PIERSON

Second Series

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PREFACE.

IN ISSUING a second series of remarkable narratives of missionary biography and history, it may be wise again to emphasize, at the outset, the importance of recognizing the supernatural factor in missions.

Eliminate God from this work, and nothing is left but a human enterprise: all the grandeur and glory are gone; for the one supreme charm and fascination of missions is that, in idea and plan, in origin and progress, the work is divine.

The "many infallible proofs," which put beyond a doubt the resurrection of our Lord, were not more unmistakable and unanswerable than the proofs of the advent of the Holy Spirit and the presence of a divine Providence in human history.

When Science, as nature's Interpreter, would

show us her greatest wonders, she points to the crystal and the cell: one, the mystery of inorganic symmetry, the other, the miracle of organic life. When God would reveal to us the signs of His own handiwork, and prove to us that through all the ages His unceasing purpose runs, He points us to the mystery of a symmetrical and crystalline historic unity and harmony, which no human foresight could have planned and no human skill have wrought out; and then He points us to holy lives, which combine the beauty of the crystal with the living energy of the cell, and which shine not with a cold, imprisoned luster, but with the radiance of a living light.

Dionysius of Halicarnassus said, "History is philosophy teaching by examples." To the Christian believer, history is God teaching by His providence and grace. Nature does not bear marks of a designing mind and hand more clearly than does human history, and preeminently the history of missionary enterprise, reveal the plan and presence of an infinite God. No man with eyes open to impression, and mind

open to conviction, can long resist this evidence. The history of missions not only reveals miracles—it is itself a miracle. It is at once a demonstration and an illustration that, high above and far behind all human actors on the stage is a divine Director and Controller, who shifts the changing scenery to suit every new act in the drama of the ages, and changes both the positions and the persons of the actors. When He wills, when His work demands it, and His time has fully come, they enter and take up their part; and, as surely, when He wills it and His time has fully come, they leave the stage and give place to others. "God buries His workmen, but He carries on His work," is one of the sayings of John Wesley, carved on his monument in England's great Abbey. But it is not less true that He raises up a Pharaoh and Cyrus, and girds those who have not known Him, to show forth His power in them, and in spite of opposition carry on His eternal covenant purpose.

The supernatural factor in missionary history may not manifest itself in any two cases in pre-

cisely the same way. Evil may at times be prevented, and at other times be permitted and overruled. But the *overrule is there*.

"Careless seems the great Avenger. History's pages but record
 One death grapple in the darkness 'twixt old systems and
 the Word.
 Truth forever on the scaffold. Wrong forever on the
 throne;
 Yet that scaffold sways the future, and behind the dim
 unknown
 Standeth God, amid the shadow, keeping watch above
 -His own."

This general supervision of missions by an almighty Wisdom and Power, appears in many ways:

1. The removal of obstacles and the opening of doors of access to the nations.
2. The sudden and unaccountable subsidence of barriers at critical periods and points.
3. The raising up of men and women previously prepared for work, as obviously prepared for them.
4. The theology of inventions—a divine plan