

it a place of frequent resort. Perhaps some of our corporations at home might take a hint from this. As for Brooklyn Bridge, it is a marvellous structure to be hung on a couple of chains. Nine years ago, if I remember rightly, a slim line like a spider's thread was all that was visible—a small beginning for so wonderful a result. I found it difficult to convince Americans that our Forth Bridge was a vaster undertaking, and that they would need to apply themselves to something still greater if they aspired to own the most notable bridge in the world.

Though California was our destination, we had so many kind friends in some of the eastern states that we arranged to spend a few days at Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, and Chicago on our westward way. And everywhere we were received with such hospitality that our great difficulty was to break away. We had to complain that, though going ahead was the great feature of the country, they would not let us go ahead.

Philadelphia had a special interest; for it was there the reunited General Assembly, to which I was sent as a delegate from the Free Church, was held in 1870; and it was there, too, that the second General Presbyterian Council (the "Pan") met in 1880. Alas! not a few of our dearest friends both in Philadelphia and New York had passed away in the interval. It was pleasant to see that, as the old standard-bearers fell, there were other men to take the colours. The Women's Foreign Missionary Society, a great institution, which has flourished wonderfully, and greatly promoted the mission cause, was holding its annual meeting, attended by more than five hundred women. My wife was carried off to the meeting, and received a most gratifying reception. She was much struck by the business capacity and great energy of the American women. During the year they have collected 145,000 dollars—say nearly £30,000.