

souls unreached, and practically uncared-for by churches, big or little. Is it possible to bring together such churches and such masses? Not, we answer unhesitatingly, while the former retain their present ideal and maintain their present attitude toward the latter. For it is to be kept in mind that the Master never gave a command to the world to come to the Church; but He did command His Church to go to the world; and this means more than giving money to send substitutes to the world. It means more than "supporting" the work of others in and for the world. In other words, it means the gift of life, of men and women and children, who represent the strength, not the weakness of the Church. The scriptural idea of a strong church is that of one in which rich and poor meet together in the recognition of the truth that one Lord is the Maker of them all, one God the Father of them all, and that, therefore, they all are brethren, one in name, one in life, one in destiny.

There are not a few churches in our great cities whose membership borders close upon a thousand or even exceeds that number. One consequence of the development of such large churches is the necessity of adding to the number of pastors, so that there are not a few cases in which two and even three pastors are demanded to accomplish the work that formerly devolved on one. Our own conviction is that there is a better way, one more economical of resources and more fruitful of results. It is one the merit of which has been attested in the experience of some of our noblest churches. It involves large sacrifice, it is true, on the part both of pastors and of people, but it is a sacrifice that brings strength, a scattering that increases. We mean colonization, the sending out by strong churches of some of their best material to organize new and independent churches in neglected portions of our cities. It is largely in the power of pastors to develop among their people a readiness to give up the

comforts and delights of associations in the mother churches, and to devote themselves to such service as they may be able to render in places where the needs are greatest. The willingness to preach people out of their churches must take the place of the natural craving to retain them and to know their continued influence and help at home, and this demands large grace. The desire on the part of people to listen to the preaching of the truth at the lips of popular divines must give way to the readiness to hear the humbler preacher, but to do the larger work; and this also demands large grace. But that the true solution of the problem of church extension is to be found here we are strongly persuaded.

It would gratify us should our readers who have seen the operation of this method send to us the results for tabulation in a future article. We believe that it would prove a valuable contribution to the question now so prominently before the Church, How to reach the masses?

The International Christian Conference.

THE International Christian Conference, to be held in Chicago during the current month, ranks with the most important of the various conventions that have characterized the great Exposition.

The section conferences "will constitute a school in which instruction will be had on sixty or more lines of practical Christian work," the instructors being experts who will give the results of their experience in the success of the methods employed by them in the prosecution of their work.

It will be a rare opportunity for Christian workers to familiarize themselves with the character of the ends to be attained and the best means of attaining them. It has become necessary, in the work of the Church, as in that of each of the great professions, that it should be divided and put in the hands of specialists fitted by particular training for service. The past has never seen such a gathering as that which is just at hand; and it is impossible to estimate the great good that will result from it in the increased wisdom, zeal, and activity of the working force in the Church.