

great Sunday School exhibit of literature, architecture, art, missions, Bibles, everything connected with Sunday School work. This will probably be held in Massey Hall.

Apart from the official delegates, as many Sunday School workers as possibly can should try to be present at the meetings of this great convention. Cheap railway rates will be announced and free entertainment will be provided for the official delegates; but the numerous boarding houses and hotels are also expected to make special rates for visitors.

The Sunday School and the Mission Problem.

BY REV. J. C. SPEER, D.D.

[The substance of this address was delivered at the Mass-meeting of Methodist Sunday Schools, in Massey Hall, New Year's Day, 1905. At our request, Dr. Speer has kindly prepared this MSS. of his soul-stirring address, which we heard with great pleasure and which produced a profound impression.—Ed.]

THERE is no subject possible to the church which is so vital as this, and since the command of our Lord to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," has not been revoked, it is well for us to keep ever before our minds the importance of the question. It would not be difficult to show, by impartial history, that the decay and downfall of the churches which have passed away began at the point where they failed to move in the line of the Lord's command.

Each department of church work must have its place and due attention, and there need be no discrimination between the many interests which exercise the forces of Christians. But, while the church might live without many of these departments, she must halt paralyzed, and fall confounded, when she fails to feed the divine flame for the world's evangelization. This is self-evident, at least to all who know the teachings of the Word, illuminated by the indwelling of the Spirit.

Then let us remember that it is the greatest work in the world. Nineteen hundred years have passed away since

Jesus Christ uttered his command of universal mission work, and yet we are told that only one-third of the race has heard the story of the Saviour.

Some one has figured out what it would mean to have these ten hundred million human beings, who have not yet been reached by the missionary, pass as a mighty army on march, and it has been calculated that if they were to start at a given point when the bells rang out the old, and rang in the new year, and were to pass that point at the rate of thirty per second, moving night and day, thirty every tick of the clock, that this march past would not cease till the snow of winter had given way to the flowers of spring. And still the ceaseless procession would move forward till the summer had turned to autumn and the golden harvests were gathered, and the white pinions of snowy winter once more floated over the land, and the bells of Christmas and of New Year's mingled their merry notes; still the steady tramp of these dark-minded multitudes would be heard. But there would be, after all these days and weeks and months, time still needed for seventy-five millions to go past the watcher who had counted that heathen parade.

One can easily fancy some of the sights one would have to look upon were he to be the one who had to keep the tally of these ten hundred million immortal souls. The colors of the people would be striking. The ebony African moves alongside the yellow Mongolian. The little brown men and women of Japan are seen by the red Indian of the American continent. What a diversity of mentality, and of life conditions, these would present! Some there would be with minds reduced to the verge of the dull instincts of the animal, while others would reach the highest point possible for the soul outside the zone of the light and power of the gospel of Christ.

Hoary age staggering and falling by the way; happy childhood full of laughter, without a thought of the life that must be endured under sin's ever-increasing burden; stalwart manhood and womanhood fighting for a deliverance they could not find and would not understand till some one would enlighten them.

Error, ignorance, and superstition, the lot of all, and the sufferings of the innocent and weak, aggravated manifold by every circumstance of life.

The task is the greatest ever undertaken by the human race, but there is