

their columns and put upon them their capitols ; He spanned their arches, and He was making ready to lay His capstone, and mark the completion of the purpose of the ages. Fitly framed together, all the parts of the universe have grown into a natural temple, in which everything saith "glory," and even the heaven and the earth exclaim, "The Lord reigneth."

The Church is His temple, fitly framed together, and it is just as true that the ages were fitly framed together and are growing into a holy temple for the praise and glory of His name. As there was a fulness of time for judgment, as they read in the Old Testament, so is there a fulness of time for blessing, and a fulness of time for opportunity. What a grand conception that is of God's framing the time-worlds, having as much of a purpose in the ages of history as He had in the creation of this world. The final completion of a time-period is the *season*, and the final completion of all the seasons is the last great crowning season which shall usher in the millennial triumph and eternal glory—the fitness and fulness of time. We have now come to God's fit and full season for the prosecution of missions in all the earth. Service is a kind of a triangle. There is an *object* to be reached—the world. There is a *force* to be put into the field—the Church. There is a Divine *Leader* to guide the Church's force into the field of harvest and work. And whichever way we look at that triangle we find sevenfold evidence that the fit and full season of God is come.

First, with regard to the world, there are seven wonders of the world realized in our day : 1. World-wide exploration. The whole habitable globe has now been traversed by the feet of the explorer. 2. World-wide communication. We are now in touch with all the peoples of the earth, by means of rapid transportation, by steam, and by means of the electric telegraph, etc. If it be our duty to love our neighbor as ourselves, the whole world is our neighbor. There are no distant peoples—the whole earth is one vast neighborhood. 3. World-wide civilization. Civilization means everything that could contribute to the model state, everything that brings men to an ideal condition, domestically, socially, politically ; and civilization is extending over the whole world ; everywhere on the face of the earth the triumphs of civilization are now to be seen ; and education and intelligence are battering down the ancient and hoary superstitions, systems which have had the sanction of centuries. False faiths are falling simply because education and culture are undermining their early foundations. 4. World-wide assimilation. There have been mutual suspicion and misunderstanding among the different peoples ; and a lack of fraternal sympathy, because there have been a lack of fraternal understanding ; but now the barriers of mutual misunderstanding are being prostrated—the Japanese and Chinese, the people in Hindustan, and the islands of the sea, and the depths of the Dark Continent of Africa, are coming to understand the people who live in Christian and Protestant nations. "Foreign