

Oriental ideas and customs. As if by magic there sprang into existence a vast network of women's societies, which splendidly supplemented the pioneer work done by the men. The home and childhood needed to be redeemed from the deplorable conditions which hamper their development in *Christian lands*, and behold, God had an army of women peculiarly fitted for the almost superhuman task.

Soon after the organization of Women's Boards it became evident that the time was ripe for a strengthening of the educational side of the work. And lo! there is a sudden revival of vital piety in the universities and colleges of America, which has crystallized into the Student Volunteer Movement. Concerning this Dr. McCosh asked, "Has any such offering of life by young men and women been presented in our age, in any country, in any age or in any country, since the day of Pentecost?" An American bishop said lately, "If you save one college man for God, you place in this world a force which counteracts the influence of a thousand illiterate vicious men." The effect of Christian education has a conspicuous illustration in Turkey, where a high official recently declared that the Reformatory College had cost the empire its best province, Bulgaria. In Japan the political movement which, in 1868, changed an absolute monarchy into a representative system of government, is said to be due to "the madness of young men." In India the mightiest secular agency in the levelling of caste is the student. In more than a dozen countries consecrated students are reaching their fellow-students.

Once again, when God saw that a further infusion of youthful zeal and energy was needed, came the great tidal wave of Christian Endeavor, sweeping away denominational barriers and giving to the world a magnificent object lesson in Christian unity. The compelling enthusiasm and dauntless purpose of these societies, growing up with inconceivable rapidity all over the globe, are among the marvels of modern times.

Viewing the century by itself, it would seem as if the conquest of the world for Christ was approaching completion. But if we place these achievements, many and mighty as they are, against the background of all the Christian centuries, the century of the last hundred years seems merely a marshaling of host for the real campaign yet to begin. Not long before he died Phillips Brooks said: "Truly this, of all times, is not the time to disbelieve in foreign missions; surely he who despairs of the power of the Gospel to convert the world to-day despairs of the power of the cross just as the sunrise is breaking. . . . For the time in the history of the world there is a manifest, almost immediate, possibility of a universal religion."