

principles and institutions, that which will adequately express our last and best attainments.

3. There is no call here for any new departure. The mission of the church is to be what it has been. What the world needs is still God-like men and women. The great wants of the nation that so deeply impressed the founders of this church still continue. The wonderful progress of the last forty years, has scarcely altered even the aspect of the country's demand upon the church of Christ for consecrated service. The three great causes to which this church devoted itself in the past were the emancipation of the slave, the emancipation of the drunkard and the conversion of the heathen to Christ. These will still be the great absorbing questions of the future. Slavery as a system has passed away, but the work of the church for the slave is not done. There never was an hour in antislavery history, when the negro needed more christian help than to-day. A half century to come will hardly put his cause beyond solicitude. The danger is that we shall have been found adequate to the breaking of his shackles, but not equal to guiding and sustaining him amid the perils of freedom. Governments can abolish slavery, but only intelligence and Christ can make men free. The future of the temperance cause in America is also still in obscurity. The liquor interest is better organized than ever before. "It holds the balance of power and cracks its whip effectually over both political parties."

But the cause which more than any other is to call for consecrated christian patriots in the future, is that which grows out of the tremendous influx of heathen to our own shores. While immigration from Europe may have reached its climax, that from China, India and Japan has just begun. Brahminism and Boohdism are to join hands with infidelity