

grudging ; and the other difficulty and danger is that she shall fear, and this strikes at unbelief as the other strikes at selfishness. And then He gives her the glorious promise to encourage her : "Thou shalt burst forth on the right hand and on the left, and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles"—this was spoken to Jewish hearers, who had no idea of the salvation of the Gentiles ; "and they shall make the desolate cities to be inhabited"—habitation in place of desolation ! I have been somewhat tedious in bringing out the meaning, but the fact is, I have great confidence in God's thoughts and I have no confidence in my own.

And now, to plunge directly into the heart of the theme, the whole text is vocal with enlargement, expansion : "Enlarge," "Let them stretch forth," "Lengthen," "Strengthen." You can easily see where William Carey got his famous motto : "Attempt great things for God !" "Enlarge," "stretch out," "lengthen," "strengthen" : "Expect great things from God !" "Thou shalt burst forth on the right hand and on the left, and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited." Carey may have been a genius, but it did not take a genius to get that motto out of the text, for it lies on the surface of it, though it did take some genius to frame it in such excellent and easily understood English, and in a proverbial form that could easily be carried in the memory and could not easily be dismissed from the memory.

What is the duty of the Church in these days ? "Lengthen" and "strengthen." See how well the Holy Ghost chooses these words. The word "lengthen" suggests extensity ; the word "strengthen" suggests intensity, and there is always danger in extensive lengthening that is not accompanied by intensive strengthening. You are lengthening your cords, but if you do not strengthen your stakes what will happen ? Your lengthening your cords will be a disaster to you and the tent itself. How simple is the figure which the Holy Ghost gives us !

How shall we lengthen cords ? By sending out our organizations in every direction—a cord here to Europe, another cord to Asia, another to Africa, and another to the islands of the sea. Toward the North Pole and the South Pole ; in every direction, from the great centres of Christendom, let your missionary organizations reach ! With the enterprise that has dash and push in it let these cords be stretched to the ends of the earth, until the network of missions overspreads the whole family of man ! And let us understand that, if we are to have this lengthened cord you must add your own length to it. As, when we rescue a man from a burning building, and the ladder will not reach those that are in peril, the fireman stands on the top rung of the ladder and adds his own length, over which men and women climb down into safety ; so, if you are going to have this organization reach over the world in a spirit of hallowed enterprise till the canopy is co-extensive with the family of man, your length has got to be added to the cord. You have read of the self-sacrifice of the Carthaginian maidens when they cut off their raven ringlets that they might be braided