

loud and pressing calls from so many open doors, "Come!" This appeal opens to us great opportunities, and lays upon us serious and weighty responsibilities. The world is full of such opportunities.

"We are living, we are dwelling,  
In a grand and glorious time,  
An age on ages telling,  
To be living is sublime."

To Christianity, this is especially the age of opportunity, particularly in relation to our own work. We realize that never before did the world offer to us, as a Church, anything like the same open field as at this present age. The cry comes to us from our sisters in heathen darkness, "Tell your people how fast we are dying, and ask if they cannot send the Gospel a little faster." They are longing for the light, and we cannot say we have not heard the voice of the dear Saviour, whose we are and whom we serve, say, "Go ye," etc.

We are now supposing we are addressing those who have already learned to know, and are serving Him.

"Send the Gospel faster, swifter,  
Ye who dwell in Christian lands,  
Reck ye not we're dying, dying,  
More in number than the sands?  
Heed ye not His words? Your Master?  
'Go ye forth to all the world,'  
Send the Gospel faster, faster,  
Let its banners be unfurled."

And can we sit in silence while this cry fills the air? Let us listen to the voice of Scripture on the need of missionary work, and in which we all, as women, may find an opportunity of carrying out the command of the Saviour. "The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand and seek God." (Psalm xiv. 2, 3.) "They are all gone aside; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." "Without Christ, having no hope, and without God in the world." (Eph. xi. 12.) "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? (Rom. x. 13, 14, 15.) And God declares in His word, that "The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God, as the waters cover the sea."

We sometimes have opportunities that come to us without seeking. God puts work in our way oftentimes, when we least expect it, and the cause of Christ advances just so fast as Christians in word and life scatter abroad its saving truths. An English preacher asked some British soldiers, "If Queen Victoria were to issue a proclamation, and, placing it in the hand of her army and navy, were to say, 'Go into all the world and proclaim it to every creature,' how long do you think it would take to do it?" One of these men, accustomed to obeying orders without delay and at peril of life, replied, "Well, I think we could manage it in about eighteen months." And who can doubt it? Who, also, can question that the Holy Ghost's purpose to send the Gospel to all nations is immeasurably hindered by the partial or entire want of co-operation on the part of Christian people? And yet, many of Christ's disciples think they are called to do little or

nothing for Christian missions. When we remember that the heathen population of the world is estimated at 850,000,000, and at least 425,000,000 are women and girls, have we no responsibility in helping to evangelize them? And in that word "responsibility," we cannot begin to cover all that might be included in it; it is as broad in its *signification* as *duty*, as *comprehensive* as *life itself*.

We sincerely trust that our dear sisters who are present here to-day with us may see their privilege in Christ, and that opportunities may loom up before their minds wherein they can aid God's cause and unite in this grand and noble work, by going back to their homes and churches infused with the thought that we belong to Christ, that His cause is our cause, His work is ours; and that Auxiliaries may be formed on every circuit and appointment on the Hamilton District, and that barriers hitherto preventing may be broken down and God's name be glorified and His kingdom extended. This, I believe, is the object in holding this District Convention. Let not the work be hindered with the thought that the Auxiliary work would in any way interfere with any of the other departments of church work. It brings its own blessing to the hearts of the individual members, and where the work of our Woman's Missionary Society has been implanted it has been a success spiritually, socially and financially, and the other funds of the Church have not suffered, but improved; and there is the consciousness that we are not simply a part of this district, but by this bond of sympathy and love we hold relationship to the spiritual interests of the whole world.

It is a work of *individual responsibility*. God has been doing His part for centuries. He has unquestionably gone before His Church, to open doors, great and effectual, now He calls upon each of us to do our part. He has been getting our work ready for us, as the mother prepares the work for her child—rough places are made smooth, crooked places straight, gates closed for centuries are being thrown open. He has been breaking down barriers for us, so that now, the whole world is open from north to south, from east to west. God has done *His* part. The inhabitants of the Isles reach out their hands for the "Bread of Life," consecrated women are ready to take it to them. Christianity is *sure* to win. How are we as women going to have a part in the work? There is but one weapon, and God has put that into our hands, "His Word," sharper than any two-edged sword, which is salvation through Jesus Christ. And this truth shall make them free. The question naturally comes to us, How shall we reach these enslaved multitudes? By God's remedy. There is no darkness so dense, no ignorance so appalling, no life so corrupt that it cannot be reached by this remedy. You will say, this is nothing new, the problem is, how to bring the remedy to bear upon the disease; it is true, indeed, that if these enslaved, benighted ones, are not brought in contact with the remedy there is no help for them. If salt is kept in one dish and meat in another, the salt will never preserve and purify the meat; if we cannot *carry* the message, we can send it by a messenger. The little American boy expressed it, when he wrote, "Jesus said, 'Go preach my Gospel,' and