

final world-wide victory, we shall see the folly of our philosophy and be guided by the wisdom of God. Then we shall spread our force over the whole field ; we shall cease to compare respective fields, and mass our forces upon those which promise the quickest, largest harvests ; we shall simply obey our Master and leave all the rest with him.

We write with calm pen, when we write down the mistake of the church as *radical*. It is our solemn conviction that we must change our emphasis from *converting* men to *evangelizing* them. While we wait for long-tilled fields to bear fruit in converts, other fields, vast and wholly untilled, yield harvest after harvest of death. After nineteen centuries, our labors are practically limited to perhaps one-tenth of the actual world-field. Meanwhile, generation after generation has come upon the stage of human history, and passed into the darkness of the unknown world, in ignorance of the gospel. Since our Lord arose and ascended, not less than fifty such generations, aggregating probably twenty times the present population of the globe, have lived and died. And yet, there are nearly a thousand millions now living who have never heard the pure gospel. So long as the church turned all her forces into the home field, the dark ages were upon her ; and when she sent forth her heralds to light up the death-shade in lands afar, her own morning began to dawn ; and so the last century, which has been the missionary century, has been the century of greatest growth to Christendom itself. Should we multiply the force in foreign fields a hundred-fold, there would be a thousand-fold increase at home.

V. *The limits of our commission set the bounds to our lawful expectation.*

If for the conversion of the world we labor and look, the present prospect is, it must be confessed, somewhat disheartening. The Christian Church has had nineteen centuries as her working-period, and out of 1,500,000,000 of inhabitants, has only about 30,000,000 Protestant church-members. After a century of modern missions, with over one hundred missionary societies, some 300 translations of the Gospels, some 6,000 missionaries in the field, and an annual expenditure of over ten millions of dollars, we have but a million and a half of converts to show. The territory of Brahminism and Buddhism has been invaded, but never pervaded. As yet, Confucianism mocks our efforts, and Islamism defies us at its central strongholds. We are making very slow progress in converting the world ; and even "Christian nations" do such unchristian things that they are sometimes, by their traffic in rum and opium, and in the bodies and souls of men, the chief hinderances of the missionary. Meanwhile, the increase of population far outruns us, and leaves our proselytism and propagandism hopelessly in the rear. No wonder the "pessimists" are triumphant.

This is one way of looking at the aspect and prospect. But what if this be the *wrong point of view* ? What if our Lord has only com-