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WATCHMAN, WHAT OF THE NIGHT ?

The morning cometh. As certainly as the night shadows flee before the rising sun, so surely is the rising of the Sun of Righteousness bringing in upon our world the dawn of a day that shall never end.

The great C. E. Convention. One of the "signs of the times," showing the coming of a better day is the religious activity among the young. Another sign, no less hopeful, was the royal welcome given by a great city to the host that recently came to it in the name of Christ. More than fifty-six thousand registered delegates, besides thousands of visitors, attended the C. E. Convention in Boston, 10-15 July. It was by far the largest Christian conference in the world's history, and one of the greatest object lessons in Christianity that Boston ever saw. It took possession of the city. An enthusiast writes of it:—

"The Convention banner appears everywhere, tied to the trolley arms of the electric cars, aorning the headlights of locomotives, flying from windows innumerable. Newspaper offices fly the C. E. colors. Great mercantile establishments are vying with one another in ingenious arrangement and lavish use of red and white. Far out in Boston's galaxy of lovely suburbs, the railway stations and homes have blossomed out in white for purity, and scarlet for love—pure love."

The authorities joined with the citizens in their hearty welcome. Beautiful plants in all parts of the Public Gardens were formed into Christian Endeavor designs of various kinds. The C. E. monogram, the Convention flag, the open Bible, the cross, and other emblems, mottoes, and texts, done in colored plants were seen everywhere.

Not content with making the far-famed Gardens a floral Gospel, these same authorities had arches erected at different places, adorned with popular C. E. mottoes, such as "We are laborers together with God," "The world for Christ," "Mizpah," "Fidelity and Fellowship," etc. Truly an impressive sight, a great city thus

paying tribute to Christ. Was it not, in its measure, a fulfilment of that glad prophecy,—

"Kings shall fall down before Him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all nations sing."

Boston did not lose her reward. The moral atmosphere of the city seemed clearer and more bracing from the presence of such an embodiment of purity and goodness. The sight of such unmingled gladness, the songs of joy that echoed everywhere, must have stirred even in many a sin-seared heart a longing for a nobler destiny.

But besides this "unconscious influence," there was a new feature in the Convention, viz., the great number of Evangelistic services in addition to the ordinary meetings. For five days there was poured out upon the sin, the wretchedness, the need of Boston, a flood of righteousness and earnest pleading that was not without its effect, for many were the requests for prayer and the promises of new and better lives.

So marked was the result of this work, together with the presence of so much pure young earnest life, that a Boston police captain said one day, "Up to five o'clock this afternoon we have not made a single arrest of any sort. This has never happened before in our history." And at their head-quarters, the officers said that "the arrests during Convention week were only one-third of the normal number."

Christianity in Colleges. The striking cheering statement was made by Rev. J. F. Smith, M. D., of Honan, in his Baccalaureate sermon at the closing of Queen's University, that of 50,000 students in the colleges of this Continent fifty-five per cent. are professed Christians while thirty-five per cent. of the remainder are in full sympathy with Christian enterprises. Dr. Smith states that one factor in bringing about this encouraging state of affairs is the Inter-collegiate Y. M. C. A. The far reaching results of the above fact cannot be grasped. These men will in no small measure be the leaders of thought and action in their various spheres; and their advent upon life's stage is full of hope and promise.