

cities constantly crystallize out of diverse and often inferior social fragments, which come from all lands and races. Foundations are forming of future states, that must be godless, immoral and dangerous if not possessed and controlled by the militant church.

V. And even more alarming and pressing is the problem of our modern cities. In 1800 our entire population, except some three per cent., was rural. In 1850 twelve per cent. lived in cities, and now a quarter of our citizenship. In 2000 A.D., one-third of our population will be civic. Commerce, manufactures, railroads, sanitary reform and infrequency of wars have made it possible for enormous masses of men and women to swarm at certain centers. Social congestion and disease result. Poverty becomes the grievance of hundreds of thousands, vice abounds, and socialism and anarchism arise to mock at wealth and culture and to assail society. Thus in New York nearly one million of human beings dwell in tenement houses; and the prevalent social depravity which like physical contagion flourishes nowhere so virulently as in crowds, bids fair to rival the common personal discomfort and discontent. From these overcrowded retreats of human misery, churches and all self-supporting institutions of social or religious culture flee away. In 1840 there was in New York one Protestant church to 2,000 of population; now there is one to 4,000. A like fate seems to impend over all our great or growing cities. And these misbegotten, unfed, untaught and unhappy multitudes are American citizens, and at the ballot-box peers of the most eminent of our voters; their political freedom, a perilous privilege for them, is a fearful menace for us.

It is no exaggeration whatever, to say that all our institutions and our very civilization are challenged and

threatened by facts so colossal and portentous. For these evils there is but one thorough and lasting remedy—the gospel—which, that it may be practiced, must be *preached*; and not only from pulpits of self-sustaining churches, but in the high-ways and by-ways, in the hovel as in the hall, on the hill-top and in the wilderness. The pastor and the church must be supplemented by the Home Board and the missionary. Nor have we begun to realize the vastness of the work the Lord has called us to do.

#### SUGGESTIVE PARAGRAPHS.

IF there was any district of which the missionary must despair, any one would have said it must be that apparently God-forsaken region of Tierra del Fuego, southern-most inhabited land of this Western hemisphere. Yet the very misery of the people, the very hopelessness of their condition, drew to their shores devoted men, whose inspiration in life was the doing of good. One group of such perished of absolute starvation on that inhospitable coast. Another was murdered in cold blood, in an ebullition of savage hate and fury. To-day if you visit that coast, you find a Christian village there, in which, instead of the miserable wigwams, cottages have been erected, gardens have been planted and fenced, roads have been made, cattle and goats have been introduced; polygamy, witchcraft, infanticide, wrecking, theft, and other vices have been abolished. A grammar of the language, an extensive vocabulary and dictionary, had been prepared; among the books, the Gospel by Luke, and the Acts of the Apostles. The list of church membership, years ago, enrolled one hundred and thirty-seven names.

DE TOCQUEVILLE declared the Mississippi Valley the most magnificent abode which the Almighty ever prepared for the habitation of man.