

# My Part in the World's Evangelization

BY  
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## Missionary Address at the International Epworth League Convention,

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Mr. Chairman and Fellow Leaguers,—The information imparted, and the inspiration received, in this great International Convention compels one to feel that the problem of the world's evangelization is within a measurable distance of its solution.

One cannot but be impressed with the thought that this convention places the kingdom of Christ above the kingdoms of this world, and that the starry banner shall always be a signal for the rising of the Star of Bethlehem, and that the cross of Christ shall always be heralded by the red cross banner which floats over the nation from which I come.

And, together with this, we feel that the young people who gather here will ever consider the tariff walls and the Monroe doctrine, with all other political and national questions, as of second importance to the conversion of the world, indeed, that we shall consider this a matter which transcends all others. It is here demonstrated to the fullest extent that whether we live under a monarchy, a republic, or a colonial form of government, we can be truly loyal to the one who is the King of kings, and we can unite to establish his reign in the whole earth.

Permit me then to say a few words on the subject assigned me, and in doing so I would have you remember that you cannot fulfil your part in this trans-pendent enterprise by a most practical demonstration that you mean more than mere sentiment. The day of the dreamer has gone. The world of to-day is not prepared to listen to any one who has nothing to show but a well-spun theory. Even the creeds and doctrines of men, which had such a hold on the peoples of the past, are of little effect now, for we are living in the most practical age since the world began. And this is as true in the secular world as it is in the sacred.

When young Dr. Jenner came forth and said he believed that by his discovery of vaccination it would be possible to produce a condition of immunity from smallpox, which at that time was sweeping in waves of death throughout the continent of Europe, the people looked at him and smiled, then they lampooned him, and at last the young man was read out of every medical association in the country. As the passers by saw a few children who had been vaccinated with a culture taken from the cows, they seriously declared that there were evidences of sprouting horns on the foreheads of these children. But when Dr. Jenner was able to show that the death-rate was lowered, wherever the method was strictly followed, he received the following of the people and physicians, and the British Parliament voted him a fortune, and since then they have ten his name on the golden pages of earthly fame.

The same thing happened when Stevenson said that he thought he could build a locomotive which would be able to travel through the rural parts of England at the tremendous speed of six miles an hour. It is said that the farmers as well as others declared, as

they say by their firesides, that if he did accomplish this, the cows in the fields would be so terror-stricken that they would never give another drop of milk, but George Stevenson demonstrated the fact, and now we are all glad to hold a little stock in the railway companies, whose name is legion.

This law will apply to the cause we are here to advocate, for, unless you show that your part in this world's evangelization is more than a mere rhapsody you cannot receive the aid of the world about you.

We have read somewhere that Charles Darwin, the great scientist, and agnostic, declared on one occasion that if the gospel could civilize the debauched inhabitants of Tierra Del Fuego he would become a contributor to the cause of missions, and it is said that when he afterwards visited these lands and saw the changes wrought by this gospel, he became a liberal giver to the missionary society until his death. This is one of the things we must do in fulfilling our part, we must prove to the world that this is a practical matter and that the gospel is the one cure for the world's woes.

Then you must behold the work which has already been accomplished that you may know what is still to be done.

Three great doors have been opened, and three remain to be opened by those who would take part in this mighty enterprise.

The doors of the nations of the world have been opened.

Fifty years ago but few heathen nations had opened their doors to the gospel, now few are closed. The roll of Commodore Perry's cannon at the gates of the Japanese nation when their bill-boards were saying "death to the Christian," was a signal to all other doors to lift up their heads that the King of glory might come in, and to-day the world's nations, with one or two exceptions, are calling for the missionary to tell them the wonderful story of love.

Then all the highways of the world have been opened to the gospel. When Christ was preached by the apostles preceded the way before a greater monarch than Rome had ever dreamed of, and thus God made the works of men to contribute to the success of his kingdom, and this is what God has been doing throughout the last fifty years on the continent and elsewhere. As I have traversed this continent from where the mocking-bird sings at your window in the month of March to where the Klondike and Alaskan Indian falls down awestricken before the flaming vision of the northern lights, I have felt that the great railway corporations wrought a work that they knew not, and, in a most literal manner, fulfilled the old prophecy that, "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places plain: and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." How perfectly this text tells that the highways of the world are now opened to the willing missionary.

And the same impression is resistless, as I have stood on the docks of the Atlantic and Pacific cities, crowded, as they ever are, with the ships of every

land and of every sea, their masts raking the clouds and their great funnels sending forth columns of smoke from their flaming furnaces. These, too, have been made ready for the work of God, though their builders may have had commerce as a first consideration, but they are now in commission for the conversion of the world. And, in the third place, the door of the printing press is now wide open to receive the news of the great Christian and heathen world, and out of the metallic jaws of night mechanism, which seems to have eyes both before and behind to search the world for news, and to pour forth the material by which we are in a position to instruct and inspire the world, the great different world on the matter of the evangelization of the heathen millions. But there are three doors yet to be opened, and your part to a very large extent will be to open them to the work of God in this campaign.

The minds of the millions are closed upon this greatest of all questions. Men and women who have an open mind on everything else: on politics, on social questions, on financial matters, indeed on all other questions, are closed on the one which, above all others, should engage the thought and concern of men. It is yours to open the minds of the people by the truth of God, both in the Bible and out of it, in the field of Christian and missionary activity.

Then the second door must be opened for, after all, we do what we love to do, and when the heart is aflame with love of Christ and for the millions who sit in the region and shadow of death, the work of the Redeemer shall soon be an accomplished fact.

And, in the third place, you must open the purses of those to whom God has given the riches of this earth.

It has been said that "we have now more money than missionaries" and, at this moment this is true, but from this gathering and similar ones there shall be called forth young men and women who shall crowd the courts of the Lord and cry, "Here am I, send me." Then where is the money to come from. True, God has given us the money, but as nations, more Christian than any other, we are shameless spendthrifts.

We are told that we run up an annual bill for liquor to the amount of nearly one billion dollars, \$400,000,000 for tobacco, \$20,000,000 for ostrich feathers, \$25,000,000 for kid gloves, and \$20,000,000 for chewing gum, while we give about \$7,000,000 for the work of sending the gospel to the ends of the earth.

This is a door that is pretty tightly closed when you consider what it would be possible for people, who are at least nominal Christians, to give toward the cause of the Christ in whom alone they think they have hope.

Your part must be to open the minds, the hearts, and the pockets of these people that they may know and feel and give to the cause of the Lord in the lands which know him not.

You may well say how can these things come to pass, and by what power shall we accomplish such a task? I would answer such an interrogation by saying that you must take higher ground and add to your natural forces and talents the power of God. The things which have already been done were accomplished by those who held

that they could do all things through