

abiding principles; given the companionship of early manhood, what needs it but devoted concentration of purpose on the part of womankind to train the generations for Christ in order to bring the world to the feet of the Redeemer? We would this were more clearly seen, and more assuredly carried out by every mother in Christendom. But when we read, as we have recently done, of five million young men in the United States who never attend church, we feel sure there is something radically wrong in the training. And because mothers do not measure up to this holy standard of living and of training of their children, labors are multiplied to those devoted to Christ's cause.

And for this purpose are we convened to-day in this convention, to consider plans of home mission work and plans of work for our less-favored sisters in heathen lands. The question, therefore, arises, How can we awaken a deeper and more widespread interest in missionary work? What can we do toward securing immediate and enthusiastic co-operation? We fully agree with Rev. Dr. Pierson in our answer, "that first and most important is the need of increased information." True zeal is according to knowledge. Fire may be fanned, but it must be fed; and the fuel that feeds the flame of missionary enthusiasm is a knowledge of facts. Hence the necessity of more definite knowledge of the foreign fields of missionary work, viz., of Japan, China, India, Africa, Mexico, South America, etc.; of the home work, the French, the Indians, the Chinese, our schools and their methods, etc.; of knowing what is already accomplished by our representatives and devoted workers, and also what remains to be evangelized; of having knowledge of the different religions of the world, viz., Romanism, Mormonism, Buddhism, Brahmanism, Confucianism, Mohammedanism, etc. These and other subjects which these suggest would, we think, form very popular subjects for papers in our meetings, both public and private, and would give to the people in general and to ourselves a keener relish for, and intelligence of, the Lord's work throughout the world. Our faith to-day is strong that no true child of God can remain indifferent when she knows the need and extremity of the thousand millions who have no Christ; when she learns what modern missions have done and are now doing; when she sees the unmistakable moving of God in the missionary fields, and the signal triumphs of grace in heathen communities. While we recognize the efforts men and women have made for the cause they love—such men as Moffat, Carey, Livingstone, McKay, of Uganda, Alexander Duff and others, and such women as Susannah Wesley, Mary Bosanquet, Miss Howard and hosts of others, naming with equal propriety our own friends who are now in distant lands—and the great work already wrought upon the world by the Lord Jesus Christ, yet as we look upon the map of the world of the present day we are appalled—856,000,000 without the Gospel; 170,000,000 Mohammedans, and of these it is said no less than 80,000,000 are women confined in Moslem harems; 8,000,000 Jews, 190,000,000 Roman Catholics, and 84,000,000 of the Greek Church.

But, ladies, we will not be paralyzed by these facts, will not look at our own frailty and weakness, but will look to Him who has already rescued millions, to our infinite and Almighty God, and will go forward, in His name, as women to do what we can to send the Gospel to the estimated 450,000,000 of heathen women and children who are crying to us from Macedon for the Bread of Life. May the Lord our God strengthen our hands, that we may come nearer to these our benighted sisters; let us for one moment contrast our positions. As Christians born in a Christian land, we enjoy far greater blessings. From childhood we have breathed the atmosphere of Christian liberty. Even the least favored of us knows not the meaning of slavery. We are free to choose our own life-work, to form our own

judgments, and to worship God according to the commands of our own consciences. We belong to a land of public schools and of Christian churches, where it is an honor for woman to reach the highest possible standard of physical, intellectual and moral excellence.

Indeed, so great and so many are our privileges, that often we are even burdened with them. But above our national inheritance of liberty, above the intellectual advantages of our schools, above even the religious privileges of our churches, above, but intimately associated with all these are the blessings of our Christian homes. With home we associate everything most dear and sacred. Here, in innocent childhood at our mother's knee, we learned our first little prayer. Here, in happy youth at that same mother's side, we found tender, loving counsel to guide our thoughtless steps and comfort our troubled hearts; and here, in womanhood at the sound of wedding bells, we left the dear mother to build other sacred homes. And the years which to a stranger but bring forgetfulness, are for us only weaving veils for "the beautiful picture that hangs on memory's wall." And it may be that some can look upon pictures still more sacred. The death angel has entered the home, has taken the dearest treasure. But by faith in the Lord Jesus you know she is safe in His presence, and you can almost see her standing with outstretched hands, beckoning you over the river. In the midst of the deepest sorrow we can find in Christ a supply for every need.

While these are some of the blessings of our inheritance, what, we may ask, are those of our heathen sisters? Do they understand the meaning of liberty? Do they experience the joys and comforts of Christian homes? Do they look by faith to an inheritance with God's people? If such were the case, a meeting of this kind would be unnecessary. Millions of our sisters look upon pictures that have no hope in them. Upon some of them let us look for a few moments. Let us to-day imagine ourselves crossing the wide Pacific *en route* for the land of the Sunrise Kingdom, our steamer arrives at Japan and we are enraptured with its beauty. But we find that in spite of its majestic mountains, its picturesque island groups, its beautiful bays and lakes, and its magnificent old temples, in spite of the fact that the Japanese woman loves refinement and order, and teaches her sons patriotism; in spite of the fact that educational advantages for woman are received with great favor, there is a dark side to the picture; their chief religion, Buddhism, teaches that woman has no soul, and her only hope lies in the transmigrations of the future in which she may possibly appear as a man and gain a right to immortality. The one curse to a Japanese woman is filial obedience. She is under the control of her father, who may sell her into a life of the deepest shame. Miss Cartmell, a returned missionary from Japan, writes: "That in that wonderful city of Tokyo, so rapidly putting on its new attire of Western civilization, this traffic in human life is carried on at the rate of ten innocent, shrinking, non-resisting, silently-compelled victims per day. Think of it, 3,650 girls annually sacrificed, lost to all mental, physical or moral life. This is the record of the metropolis. What must be the record in the interior, where reforming influences have so much less power?"

Leaving Japan, let us cross the strait into China, "The Celestial Empire," boasting a civilization of nearly 3,000 years, a nation of male students, but of whose customs and degraded women we shall hear to-day from our friend and returned missionary, Miss Crosthwaite. Leaving China, let us sail for India, "the land of the Vedas." These are narrow places, where only woman's feet can travel, rough spots that only her touch may smooth, low levels which only her hands can raise, recesses of sin and sorrow where only her voice can be heard. Here are 21,000,000 widows whose condition forms one of the darkest pages in history.