

each over 20,000 inhabitants, lies on our borders, our next door neighbor. Contact there must be, and it must be more close and frequent, as modern enterprise is so rapidly annihilating space and time, and pushing railways and telegraphs through the heart of the land of the Aztecs. Lacking a river system and good harbors, Mexican commerce naturally floats to our ports. Awaking to the superiority of our civilization, Mexican society begins to court closer fellowship with our institutions. Now is the turn of tide in the affairs of this neighboring nation. Whether avarice and ambition shall conquer Mexico in the interests of trade and traffic, or the spirit of the gospel shall impel laborers to till these opening fields for Christ, is the pivotal issue of the hour.

Forty years ago, in 1847, in connection with an unjustifiable war, the United States troops invaded Mexico, but they bore in their knapsacks that blessed book of God, which thus by the strange fate of war, found its way into the Aztec land. The furrows ploughed by cannon were strange furrows in which to sow the seed of the Kingdom. Yet so it was. Then seven years later, Miss Melinda Rankin, in Brownsville, Texas, just across the border, a few miles from Matamoras, set up her seminary. The revolution of 1857 opening Mexico to Protestant missions, Mr. Thompson, agent of the Bible Society, crossed the Rio Grande to Matamoras in 1860: and that heroic woman, Miss Rankin, followed in 1864, and in 1865 personally raised in our country the \$15,000, to push on her pioneer work, herself training and sending out native colporteurs. In 1866 she began work at Monterey, and six years later our General Assembly took up Mexico as a mission field. In September of that year a pioneer band of seven, Rev. Messrs. Pitkin, Phillips, Thompson, with their wives, and Miss Ellen P. Allen, took ship from New York and went straight to the Mexican capital. There they found a large body of people prepared for organization into Protestant communities, and in January, 1873, Rev. M. N. Hutchinson and wife took charge of the work. During the same year Zacatecas became to the northern what Mexico city was to the southern states, the evangelical and evangelizing centre, and from these points evangelism radiated.

The methods of work were simple and effective. Protestant worship, with scriptural ordinances and sacraments, Christian schools, Bible teaching, evangelical hymnology and the education of a native ministry were the seven-fold secrets of success. Of