

THE GREAT CALL OF GOD TO HIS CHURCH.

BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

We have sought with increasing diligence to find by searching what is God's plan or purpose concerning the Church and the world. Certain we are, at least, of this, that He wills the largest and promptest proclamation of the Gospel, the presence of witnessing believers and a witnessing Church everywhere, even to the uttermost part of the earth. Beyond this we are sure of nothing save this, that His Word will not return to Him void, and that our labor will not be in vain in the Lord.

To all believers the Divine command is, that they outgrow babyhood, cease to be mere objects of care, and become care-takers; and enter into that Divine plan which takes in the whole Church, the whole world, and the whole age. We must be satisfied with the hope that has its anchorage in Scripture promises, do our duty, and leave results with God; undertake a world's evangelization, and not be disheartened if we find that to the end of the age there is only an outgathering of the elect Church, and that, as in the apostolic age, some believe the things which are spoken, and some believe not. The stress of the command of Christ lies on *occupation, evangelization*. A loyal servant or soldier simply obeys implicitly orders which are explicitly given. Here are our "marching orders;" and to follow them is to win what is better even than apparent victory—the approval of Him who will say, "WELL DONE, good and faithful servant."

Now, of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: Every saved soul is called to be a herald and a witness; and we are to aim at nothing less than this: to make every *nation* and every *creature* in every nation *acquainted* with the Gospel tidings. This is the first and ever-present duty of the Church; it is the heart of the whole missionary plan. God will give us souls as our hire and crown; large results in conversion of individuals, and the transformation of whole communities will follow, as they always have followed, a godly testimony. But we are not to *wait for results*; we are to regard our duty as never done, while any region beyond is without the Gospel. Let all men have a *hearing* of the Gospel at least; then when *evangelization* is world-wide, we may bend our energies to deepening the impression which a first hearing of the Gospel has made. But, again, let it peal out as with a voice of thunder, to be heard wherever there are believers; the first need of the world is to hear the Gospel, and the first duty of the Church is to go everywhere and tell every human being of Christ, the world's Saviour. To stop or linger anywhere, even to *repeat* the rejected message, so long as there are souls beyond that have never heard it, is at least unjust to those who are still in absolute darkness. Instead of creating a few centres of intense light, God would have us scatter the lamps until all darkness is at least relieved, if not removed. And if to any reader it appears that this is emphasizing a distinction that is of little