

crisis imperatively demands that the entire force of the Christian Church should be enlisted and engaged in this glorious work. A spirit of consecrated enterprise must apply to this giant problem the best and soundest business principles; a system must be devised which shall prevent waste of time, money and men, and economize and administer all the available forces of the Church. The imperial clarion of our Lord as, with a peal of the last trump, summons all his hosts for the crusade."

It *can* be done; it *ought* to be done; it *MUST* be done.

WOMAN'S WORK FOR MISSIONS.

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THE MAGNITUDE OF THE NEED.

THE present extent of the unenlightened and unevangelized populations of the earth, when viewed from a Christian standpoint, is sufficient to move the stoutest heart to pity, and to awaken in every serious mind inquiries and reflections of the most momentous and solemn kind. Careful calculations of the various heathen peoples show that there are at present at least eight hundred millions of human beings in the world who have as yet been totally unreached by Christian agencies, and who are therefore still sitting in pagan darkness and in the "shadow of death." Three hundred millions of women in the world of to-day who have only the Buddhist hope, which is so poor and so humiliating, as to be little better than total annihilation itself. Eighty millions of our poor degraded sisters are at present spending a miserable, melancholy existence amid the depravities, abominations and sorrows of Moslem harems. According to recent information, there are in India one hundred and forty-four millions of Hindus, Buddhists and others who are living and dying in all the darkness of pagan gloom. In China there are at least three hundred millions as yet untouched by any evangelistic agency, and over thirty millions in Japan in the same condition. In Africa there is a vast multitude numbering, it is said, nearly eighty millions, the victims of the grossest superstition, and of a sad and hopeless despair. The utter spiritual destitution which prevails in this "Dark Continent," is seen in the fact that when the explorer Stanley, only a few years ago, crossed from Zanzibar to the Congo's mouth, all over those 7,000 miles he did not find a single native who had heard of Christ. In various other parts of the globe there are scores of millions whose condition is equally sad. More than half of the race yet unreached by that instrumentality appointed by God for the salvation of the world!

Such figures, viewed in the light of Christian revelation, are frightful and truly appalling. Over these vast multitudes of our fellowmen, moving in swift procession through the dreary wilderness of heathenism, there hangs, so far as their future is concerned, the pall of an immeasurable gloom!

The solemn questions as to life's significance and the invisible world, remain to them unanswered, and, amid the trying hours of affliction, calamity and death, paganism has no sure shelter and no rich power or sustaining hope to impart to the wide fields of human misery ever open to its view. The "muffled moans of baffled hopes" come uttering their unappeasable sorrow, and asking for some answering word, that will dispel the deepening gloom, and heal the deep, deep wound that sin has made. The present and final condition of such teeming myriads of mankind is a matter of painful thought for all who have any true conception of the possibilities for good and evil which are found in a human existence, and of the far-reaching destinies of which that existence is capable.

Another unwelcome fact forces itself upon us, and demands recognition when we would attempt a true estimate of the heathen world as it exists to-day. The fact to which reference is made, and which has recently been emphasized by a special authority on Christian missions, is, that the proportion of the unevangelized is increasing from year to year by the law of natural propagation, and unless the Church plies the divinely appointed means for the evangelization of the ever multiplying masses of the heathen world on a much broader scale than at present, the prospect for universal conquest in the Redeemer's name is far from encouraging. Those won from heathenism to Christianity during the current century are really insignificant, when compared with the multitudes which, by natural increase, have been added to the immense population of the former since the modern missionary movement began. All that has been achieved is little more than a very hopeful beginning of that glorious, work which aims at the destruction of all false religions, and the winning of an alien world to holiness and to God.

If we would impress more deeply upon our hearts the greatness of the need to which this paper has special reference, it is well to remember the comparatively few laborers engaged in the foreign field. In India there are about two missionaries for every million of its inhabitants. A province of nearly thirty millions in the north of China, has twelve or fifteen ministers of the Gospel from all Christian denominations. Other provinces still fewer; others none at all. If only two Christian missionaries were found attempting to meet the religious needs of the four million