

But Christianity sets before us a much wider field. The field of our culture and conquest is the world; the field of our everlasting expatiation and action is the universe. As believers in Christ Jesus, we are free of the universe. All things are ours,—the world, things present, things to come; all are ours. Every star that sparkles is ours; every sun that burns is ours; every changing and revolving globe is ours; all the regions of space are ours. They are our Father's, and therefore ours. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

While the politicians of our country are expatiating in the widened field of their action and aspiration, let us not forget, as Christians, that to us is committed the glorious work of extending the kingdom of Christ. This kingdom should be extended both at home and abroad. There are heathens at our doors, in the lanes and alleys of our cities, where reeking iniquity and festering wretchedness cry out for pity and salvation. There are wandering Red Men, who are straying from Christ and dying in sin. There are back settlements and new townships that greatly need the institutions and blessings of the gospel. There are weak churches throughout our land, struggling to maintain themselves in Christ's worship and work, and imploring brotherly aid till they can stand alone. Our Canadian Missionary Society claims our coöperation, in responding to these appeals. There are multitudes in Lower Canada that need the light of the gospel, and the French Canadian Missionary Society solicits our help to save them. There are four millions of freedmen in the Southern States; and the American Missionary Association asks our prayers and contributions for their conversion and education. Who can be idle amid necessities and appeals like these? Who can hoard up his money, when such a work as this imperatively demands our energies and means? Who is on the Lord's side? Who? "The prophet that hath a dream let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully." This is enterprise indeed; this is extension beyond compare; this aim and achievement are divine; their birth place is the heart of Infinite Love; their field is a divinely-purchased world; their means are the resources and the riches of our Heavenly Father and the consecrated energies and gifts of his ransomed sons; and their glorious issue is immortality and eternal life.

Every society, domestic, national and ecclesiastical, is simply the sum of its individual members, and contains just as much wisdom and wealth as the individual members bring into it. No association of fools makes wisdom; no combination of sinners makes saints. Union is strength for good, if the persons united are good; but strength for evil, if the persons united are evil. Let us look well to our personal condition and character. Every man must bear his own burden, and give account of himself to God. Our success as a confederacy, as families and as churches, depends on ourselves. It is righteousness that exalteth a nation; it is sin that is a reproach to any people. It is God that really reigns, and from him comes our salvation. "When he