

couragements, and many things that were said to-night were exceedingly appropriate to us and to our work. Nowhere do we need a more thorough study of the Bible; nowhere do we need men better on their feet in regard to Scripture knowledge and Christian faith; nowhere do we more need missionaries who have been born in Christian homes, nurtured at Christian altars, brought up in the service of the Lord, and consecrated to this special work; nowhere do we find more material ready to hand—intelligent, bright, polished material—but far, far from Christ. The joys of bringing the material to Christ are great, but the difficulties are equally great. Oh, that a praying Church knew the grandeur of the missionary problem! I believe that a greater work is yet to be done than has been done. I believe that the right track was indicated to-night. The pillar has moved forward. We have come to the day of scientific missionary effort. I can remember in my youth what might be called the day of missionary sentiment—the day of missionary romance, when we were stirred and roused by thrilling tales from the mission field. But these have lost their edge; they have been all told over and over again; there is a similarity in them that fails to interest and fails to hold; but if we have a people fond of missionary information, filling the hearts of our children from their boyhood up—if we have our hearts filled with the theme of the world for Christ, the possibility of entering into the plan of redemption that was inaugurated in the courts of heaven when it was decided that the only begotten Son of God should go forth to redeem the world from sin; when we can realize that we to-day have the privilege of stepping into the ranks and taking part in that great work, and when we encourage that work in our homes, and consecrate our children to it, and bring them up to it, Bible in hand, and the home consecrated to Christ, I believe the Church will take a great step forward, and we will be able successfully to wage the war of love against the armies and enemies that meet us in the far-off fields. The difficulties that stand before us are not so much the darkness and degradation of the heathen—those we meet as the natural condition of things in Christless lands—but our greatest difficulties come from home—(hear, hear)—men who have gone out to the far-off fields to bear testimony against us; men who go out to unsay the things that we say, and to unlove the things that we try to love. And when the members of those foreign churches, who have been born out of heathenism into the kingdom of Christ, and are standing but unsteadily upon the infant legs of a new faith, come out to this so-called Christian land, they see so much that deters them—so much that disappoints them—so much that disgusts them amongst this strong, sturdy, bustling western race, that they go back and say, “Christianity does not rule the west, and we have been mistaken.” The other day I came across a Japanese who was in charge, at the World’s Fair, of some very fine specimens from the East. I greeted him by name, and asked him what kind of a time