

be sought out, and if possible won from their
d brought into communion with his people.

many of them in addition to the inherent
ness, have learned the objections to Christian-
ever ready to adduce the faults of professors and
sects, as adequate reasons why they should
vation. Many of the unsaved in thirst for
ing thirst for gold, have sought homes in the
ges near the Pacific, where, except in a few
ot reach them for many years to come.

ctually bring the gospel to bear upon these
vital question Christians can ask in this day.
Christ's blood-bought children in this land
our first, highest, and until fully attempted,

opefully in this great and urgent business.

in spirit. It will not do to go to these care-
ones, with half-hearted zeal or a narrow
n them to one's own particular party in
selves off from all intercourse with Christian
ed among good men; and they are keen-eyed
e in the one who would lead them in a new
e, and love to the Redeemer of souls, must
who would evangelize these outside and

ve the unevangelized in our land must be
standing outside of the ordinary channels of
rom good men and good surroundings as
them live beyond the reach of sanctuary
fully, it must be by an aggressive effort
any a dark ally, over many a rough moun-
and this aggression must be persistent; for
eases to arrest the hardened wanderer and

ing and permanent. Startling, because so
hardened, so many backsliders, so many
waked and called as by the sound of a
ends their probation. And permanence of
vital, because large numbers reached thus
months, perhaps years to come, except

-like in spirit, aggressive in form, awaken-
aevangelized can be saved. *Union Mis-*
is eminently broad-hearted in the spirit
Jesus. It has no selfish ends to compass,
t's name and only for his sake. Under
out into the waste places and calling upon

ts aggressiveness, because it knows that
t to the Saviour. If it fail to reach and
every nook and corner of the land, into
the miners, every coalshaft on the moun-
-who else will seek them out and carry
a unsectarian character it is able to gain
as it is not only 'Christianity on wheels,'
ianity on foot, it can go anywhere where
nd press upon them the commands of

The living voice is the most effective
out thought, and waking emotion; and
urs to plead for Christ in the ears of the

impenitent, one by one wherever found, not simply as a Sabbath-day service, but
as a daily, hourly duty, it will have, does have amazing influence in startling the
careless from their indifference, and directing their attention upon eternal things.

"Nor is this impression ephemeral, for the missionary colporteur goes into every
house accompanied by godly preachers in the form of good books, some of whom
will remain to enforce his living words from Sabbath to Sabbath for years to come:
thus rendering abiding and effective upon the life, what else might have passed
away in an hour. Here is found the permanent element in colportage, which has
during the last twenty-seven years placed in the households of our land, about
eleven millions of evangelical volumes, most of which are to this day testifying of
the great salvation.

"Such is *Union Missionary Colportage* in spirit, form, and character. That it
has had an effect in arousing, stimulating, and directing the personal activity of
the lay members of the church which cannot be overestimated, is unquestioned.
As we cannot always trace the whole line of cause and effect, we cannot say that
the new development of lay agency which has been so marked during the last
quarter of a century, is entirely due to this system. This however is certain, that
when colportage was introduced, this vast power of the church was, to a great ex-
tent, dormant. The work of communicating the riches of the gospel of grace was
intrusted and left to the ordained ministry, learned, useful, and active, the great
body of believers receiving truth gladly at their hands but not realizing the respon-
sibility of communicating it to others.

"When colportage was introduced, there were those who looked upon it with
fear and suspicion, proposing, as it did, to put unordained laymen into the work of
laboring for souls. At the Deliberative Meeting, held in the Broadway Tabernacle
in 1842, when the question of adopting the system of colportage was under discus-
sion, a preacher who was present, took the negative, on the ground that it would
be introducing a new, untried, and irresponsible class of laborers, who, with a zeal
not according to knowledge, might work great mischief among the people, and in-
jure the cause of Christ. An honored pastor of the city was passing out of the
house when the suggestion was made. Waiting till the close of the speech he re-
turned to the pulpit, opened the Bible, read the reply of Moses to the demand of
the impetuous and envious Joshua, that he should forbid the unlicensed Eldad and
Medad from prophesying in the camp, 'Would God that all the Lord's people were
prophets,' and that the Lord would put his Spirit upon them; and without a word
of comment closed the book. That apt reply silenced opposing arguments, and
gave the sanction of holy Scripture to this effort to bring all the followers of Christ
into active efforts in his service.

"The colporteurs began their work. Taken from among the most active, intel-
ligent, discreet, and pious men in our churches—men filled with sympathies for the
great mass of the people, able to reach their hearts and affect their lives, and in-
spired with a burning love for Christ leading them to labor for souls he died to
save, they have traversed the wastes of the land, explored its destitutions, and from
the highways and hedges have brought multitudes to the gospel feast. Their practi-
cal, personal labors, followed by the Divine blessing, have commended themselves
to Christian hearts. The lay members of our churches recognized the opportunity
thus presented to them. Christian activity was aroused by their precept and ex-
ample. Schemes for personal effort within the bounds of our churches were
organized. The power of the people in supplementing the labors of the pastor
began to be developed; till now, through the impulse given by Christian conven-
tions, the organized efforts of Young Men's Christian Associations, and other forms
of Christian activity, the lay element of our churches is developing its power and
vast efficiency as never before. While recognizing this youthful and blessed in-
strumentality, the direct influence of colportage in calling it into being should not
be overlooked.

"Another of the beneficent results largely due to the system of colportage, is the
great increase of religious literature in our country. The religious press in the
United States, now so great and growing a power for good, has been mainly a
growth of the last fifty or sixty years. In 1810 the cost of paper manufactured for
book printing in the United States was two hundred and forty-five thousand dollars.
Last year the cost for manufacturing the publications of this Society alone exceeded
that amount.