

public taste and, let us say, the editors of the *Petit Journal* of Paris, the *Daily Mail* of London, and the *Journal* of New York would expect to catch on. For the objects of the Christian Endeavor Society are: 'To promote an earnest, Christian life among its members, to increase their mutual acquaintance, and to make them more useful in the service of God.' Nevertheless, this society has beaten all other societies in the rapidity of its growth. No other organization born in 1881, or later, has recruited anything like three million members for any purpose whatsoever."

Mr. Stead believes that the Christian Endeavor Society, "if it is true to its greatest function and follows the line upon which it has been launched by its founders, must of necessity become a great agency for the promotion of peace in the world. Our churches to a very large extent have lamentably failed to be of the slightest good in stemming the fierce flood of national passion or curbing the arrogance of imperial ambition. It remains to be seen whether in the various branches of the Christian Endeavor Society there are to be found local centres round which may rally the forces of those who do not believe that it is right to settle controversy by the summary process of murder."

The importance of the world's convention, to be held in London next summer, is thus appreciatively recognized: "How many thousands will come up to London in July, 1900, is as yet not even estimated, but some idea as to the extent of that convention may be formed from the fact that the Hospitality Committee is expecting no fewer than ten thousand visitors from across the Atlantic. Ten thousand Americans—an invasion! Just think of it. It is a veritable army that is to descend upon our midst—an army organized with banners, although carrying no weapons more formidable than their Bibles and their hymn-books. Ten thousand! Never before in the history of the world has there been such a peaceful invasion of our land by an organized force from across the seas. To welcome such a host is a task which will not overtax the hospitality of John Bull, but their presence in our midst in such unprecedented numbers demands corresponding exertions on our part to welcome the friendly guests. Arrangements are being made upon a scale which throws the assembling of the Church Congress this month into absolute insignificance.

"That the members of the society will be enthusiastic is to be expected, but unless I have altogether misconceived the significance and the potentiality of this movement, it becomes a grave question whether those who are altogether outside the movement, but who are interested in all that pertains to the welfare of their fellow-men, should not unite in sympathetic interest to do what in them lies to make the Convention of 1900 a great and memorable event in the history of nations. In what way this can be done by outsiders—whether by the Peers whose castles and palaces form so large an element in what

may be called the national capital of this country, or whether it may even be the heads of those secular organizations, such as railways and steamships, which render such a meeting possible; it is a matter that must be left to their own conscience and to their own ability to realize the immense possibilities of such an international gathering. One thing is quite sure; for the sake of England, as well as for the sake of our common faith, nothing should be left undone by rich or poor, from the Queen upon the throne down to the humblest of her subjects, to give Dr. Clark and his Christian Endeavorers a right royal welcome."

One Problem Solved.

SOME time ago, the eminent British editor, W. Robertson Nicoll, gave the Endeavorers of the Old Land this simple message: "Fill the pews." This is work of a definite nature, and work sure to be accompanied with far-reaching results. There is not a society in the land that could not render important service by making a systematic and continued effort to bring non-churchgoers within the sound of the gospel.

Dr. Josiah Strong relates this incident, which serves to illustrate what may be accomplished anywhere, if there is an expenditure of earnest, prayerful effort:

The evening services of a certain church were poorly attended; people thought they could not come out twice a Sunday. The standing committee talked it over, and pledged themselves that they would never willingly absent themselves from the evening service, and that they would urge everyone they saw to plan for a second attendance. The parents talked it over. They found that their children were not in the habit of spending the evening religiously or profitably, and they determined to set them an example of an earnest devotion to spiritual concerns. The young men talked it over. They concluded that it was their duty to attend services, and bring at least one young man with them. The young ladies talked it over. They thought that if they could go to a concert or a party at night it would not do them any harm to attend church after sunset. They decided that they would go regularly, and take each a young woman with her. The minister was astonished. He did not know what to make of it. The attendance was increasing every week. Strangers, seeing the direction of the crowd, followed. It became the most popular church in the town.

How oft we, careless, wait till life's
Sweet opportunities are past,
And break our alabaster box
Of ointment at the very last.
Oh, let us heed the living friend
Who walks with us life's common ways,
Watching our eyes for look of love,
And hungering for a word of praise!