

of influence, good or bad, which may rise in any quarter of the globe. Why should not the world be taught a common religion, and that speedily? Evidently Providence intends that the world shall be saved as a whole or poisoned as a whole. One hundred and twenty missionaries in China, representing twenty-one Protestant missionary societies, say, "We want China emancipated from the thralldom of sin in this generation. It is possible." Some British soldiers were asked by an English preacher, "If Queen Victoria were to issue a proclamation, and placing it in the hands of her army and navy, were to say, 'Go ye into all the world and proclaim it to every creature, how long do you think it would take to do it?'" The answer was promptly given by one of them, "Well, I think we could manage it in about eighteen months." With the wonderful multiplication of tracts and Bibles possible through the printing press, the rapid means of communication and travel, and the other factors already mentioned, a wise division of labor, a hearty co-operation in one world-wide plan of work, and a consecration greater than at present, but by no means commensurate with the grandeur and urgency of the work, would enable the Church to push its work so systematically and energetically that on every hill and in every valley the glad sound would be heard, and every creature under heaven know of Christ before the twentieth century dawns. Every day we delay 100,000 unevangelized souls drop into eternity.

#### THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE CHURCH.

Joseph Cook states that if the present nominal Christian population of the world were to join hands and stand in line they might encircle the earth eleven times. If only one circle were to act, the work can be done. Twenty thousand millions of dollars lie in the coffers of the members of Protestant churches in Great Britain and America. One cent a day from each would yield the sum of one hundred millions for missionary work every year, instead of twelve millions, as at present. Three thousand young men and women are standing ready to be sent abroad. A Christian literature has been created in every language under heaven. A Pentecost, in which every man shall hear in his own tongue wherein he was born the wonderful works of God, is now possible for the whole world. Sectarianism is dying out of the Church. The Christian press is sowing the populations at home with the facts, which are the fuel of missionary enthusiasm. What is the Church waiting for? Do its marching orders, "Go ye into all the world," mean anything? Earl Shaftesbury said, "During the latter part of these centuries it has been in the power of those who hold the truth, having means enough, hav-

ing knowledge enough, and having opportunity enough, to evangelize the world *fifty times over.*" If this work is to be done, it only requires that each of the ten millions of believers give money enough, or do work enough, to reach with the Gospel tidings eight or nine souls every year for the twelve years that remain.

There is no attempt to belittle the vast extent of the field to be covered or the difficulties that beset the work. The figures show that it is possible, and in these later days God has been putting our figures and our faith to shame by the swifter march of His feet. To the Church itself, threatened, through its plethora of wealth, with a luxurious Christianity, one of sentiment rather than of principle, one of easy-going and heartless carelessness, instead of enthusiastic and self-sacrificing Christ-likeness, it is the supreme necessity that it should be awakened to this work, if the waters are to be kept sweet at the fountain-head and the health of the body kept sound.

Dr. Pierson, in the *Missionary Review*, uses the following illustration of the haste with which a royal decree may be carried out. The empire of Ahasuerus stretched from the Danube and the Nile in the west to the Indus and Ganges in the east, and from the Caspian Sea in the north to the Persian Gulf in the south. On the three-and-twentieth day of the month Sivan, the King's scribes were called to put into writing the decree of life which had been issued to countermand the decree of death sent abroad at the instigation of Haman. There were 127 provinces in the empire spread over an extent of country 2,000 miles long by 1,000 broad. It was to be published to every people after their language. There were no printing presses, or postal unions, railways or telegraphs. The copies had to be made by hand, and borne by messengers who had no swifter means of travel than was furnished by horse and mule, camel and dromedary. Yet in all the 127 provinces of that vast empire the decree was published in the month Adar on the 13th day of the month; that is, *in less than nine months.*

The Church of God with its modern opportunities, its abounding wealth, and rapidly increasing millions of members, has yet to carry the Gospel over a space only *thirteen times as great* as the ancient Persian Empire. It ought to be able to do it in a space of time more than thirteen times as long. Says one of the statesmen of missions: "The necessity and feasibility of a grand campaign for Christ, with the reference to the immediate occupation of all unoccupied fields, and the immediate proclamation of the Gospel to every living soul, are beyond dispute. After a wide discussion by the ablest writers upon the subject of missions, the conviction is only established that the present