

## Missionary.

### The Resources of the Christian Church for the Evangelization of the World.

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The history of the world is in a real sense the story of the widening sovereignty of man. On any theory of his origin, he began quite simply, and the centuries have watched the gradual but uninterrupted expansion of this power. It is as though God himself had felt an increasing trust in man, and had attested it by increasing man's power, by admitting him, so to speak, to a fellowship in the divine might and authority. There is a saying of our Lord's which justifies this statement, and it is evidenced by the obvious fact of history that this increase of power has been in the hands of the nations who believe in God and in God's Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

But we are now concerned not with the historical significance of the immense resources of the Christian nations, but with their prophetic significance. The question is not how the Christian powers came to possess these resources, but why do they possess them to-day, for what service in the days to come? We are to think of the challenge that is presented to the Christian church by our possession of these vast resources calling us to effort commensurate with our powers.

#### THE MATERIAL RESOURCES.

I. Begin on the lowest plane of all, and notice, first, the abounding material resources of the Christian church. That we may not think too generally, we will confine our thought to the resources possessed by the four countries which are doing nine-tenths of the missionary work of the world, and on whose shoulders the chief burden of responsibility for the world's evangelization must rest—Great Britain, Great Britain, Canada, and the United States. How can we get an adequate idea of the material resources of these four great lands?

The bank deposits in these four countries alone aggregate \$2,332,000,000, an amount equal to three-halves of the revenues of the entire world, and to the missionary gifts of the entire Protestant Church for more than four and a half centuries. The deposits of national banks alone of the United States last year amounted to \$2,337,000,000, one-half of the total deposits of the country, and more money than all these four countries combined give to foreign missions in one hundred and seventy years.

Think of what these four countries are spending on war. They have enlisted in their armies 1,148,000 men, and it costs every year \$694,000,000 to maintain them—more than the Christian church gives to foreign missions in thirty years. Great Britain has spent more on the war in South Africa \$620,000,000, and is spending now four and a half million pounds a month. The United States has spent \$509,000,000 during the three years of the Spanish and Philippine wars. These two lands alone have spent in the last three years, in these two wars, more than enough money to maintain 40,000 missionaries on the foreign field for more than an entire generation. . . . The United States might have maintained during the entire nineteenth century a staff of 35,000 missionaries on the field every year for what she spent on her army, her navy, and her pensions during that time.

Let us turn away for a few moments from figures that no one comprehends, to notice a few great illustrative items of expenditure. The New York Sun's estimate of the amount spent on the Yale-Harvard football game in 1900 was greater than Denmark, Finland, and the Netherlands contributed in that year for the world's evangelization. The Protestant Episcopal Church is building a great cathedral in New York. No one can have any objection to its building a cathedral. The architecture is not good, but it will be a good and useful thing, provided other things are not left undone because of it. The \$15,000,000 that it is proposed to invest in the cathedral would maintain one thousand missionaries on the foreign field for fifteen years, or five hundred missionaries on the foreign field for the thirty years that that cathedral will be in building. . . .

Come back again to the larger figures. One of our corporations, like the United States Steel Trust, has a capital of \$1,500,000,000, and actual profits last year five times as great as the entire foreign missionary offerings of these four Protestant countries. The gross earnings of the United States last year were \$1,487,000,000, and the net earnings more than \$525,000,000. There is one life insurance company in the United States, which actually paid to its beneficiaries last year thirty-five per cent. more than the entire world gave to the foreign missionary enterprise during the year. The income of that one company was three times greater than the income of all the foreign missionary treasuries of the world combined. . . .

Let us come to the money that belongs to the Christian people in these four countries. The United population of these four countries is 178,000,000. The communicant Protestant Church membership is more than 30,000,000—more than one-sixth of the population of these countries. The aggregate estimated wealth of these four lands is over \$200,000,000,000. If the Protestant communicants of these four lands have only their fair proportion of this wealth they have \$33,000,000,000 in their possession. We have not counted their children, or the great mass of people who are esteemed as Christian people, though they are not communicant members of the churches. It would be perfectly fair to double these figures in order to arrive at a just estimate of the wealth of the Christian churches in these lands, \$66,000,000,000, and the amount they gave to foreign missions last year was 1-3.50 of their wealth, or assuming, which is far under the fact, that their annual income was 5 per cent. of their wealth, 1-175 of their income.

The population of the United States last year was 90,000,000. The communicant membership of the Protestant churches was 18,900,000, a little more than one-fourth. The estimated wealth of the country was \$93,000,000,000; it had increased between 1890 and 1900 at the rate of \$2,900,000,000 a year. In other words, the Protestant Christians of the United States alone were worth last year \$23,000,000,000, and they had added to their wealth last year at least \$725,000,000. They gave to the foreign mission cause one-fourth of a tithe of their wealth, and one-twentieth of a tithe of what they added to their permanent wealth last year, after all their luxuries were paid, after all their luxuries were indulged in, after all their waste. If the Protestant Christians of the United States had given one-tenth of what they saved last year, they would have multiplied 1,200 per cent. what they gave to foreign missions.

The Christian Church stands possessing material resources so great that she would not feel the expenditure of what would be necessary for the evangelization of the world. She can afford anything she wants to do, and everything she ought to want to do.

#### RESOURCES IN MEN AND WOMEN.

II. Let us turn, second, to our resources in life. The population of these four lands is 178,000,000 of people, and they have enlisted in their armies 1,148,000 men, or one out of every 150 of the population. I do not say that as many as that ought to go to the mission field, but it does seem that if we can spare one out of 150 for our armies, we ought to be able to spare one out of a thousand for the armies of Christ. That would send out a missionary host of 178,000. If the Christian Church would send out from her ranks as large a proportion as that of the citizens enlisted in the armies of these four countries, she would supply a missionary host of 200,000, more than ten times the size of the entire Protestant missionary body, men and women, now at work in the world. The United States alone has 77,000 soldiers in the Philippines. The number of soldiers of Great Britain in South Africa on January 1st was 237,000. The United States was maintaining in the Philippines more soldiers than we would need missionaries to evangelize the world, and Great Britain was maintaining three times as many in South Africa.

You say that not all of this proportion of the population would be qualified for missionary service. According to the Statesman's Year Book there are now in the colleges and universities of these four countries 164,000 young men. About 40,000 of them will go out every year—1,200,000 in a generation. One per cent. of them would be 12,000. Mr. Jayes said that about four per cent. of the present university population of Great Britain is enlisted in the ranks of the Student Volunteer Union. Four per cent. of the university and college body of students in these four countries would yield all the missionaries necessary for the evangelization of the world—48,000 missionaries within the term of one generation alone. The Christian Church has ample resources in life.

#### THE RESOURCES IN EQUIPMENT.

III. Think, in the third place, of the resources of the Christian Church in the matter of agency, instrumentality, and equipment. Think of her knowledge of the world. Where could she not go now, knowing perfectly the conditions she must confront, with the people with whom she would have to deal, the problems she would have to meet? . . . The Christian powers rule the world; they go where they will, do what they please; the whole world has come under the political control of the nations dominated by the Christian Church. It lies not alone under their political, but under their industrial, control. Who supplies the capital for the world's enterprises? Who owns the immense fleet of shuttles all over this world, weaving the fabric of its life into a tighter web each year? The Christian nations control the world, and they are controlled by the Christian influence and churches in them.

Think of the actual missionary equipment of the church. There are 2,000 Missionary Societies, 306 of them in these four countries, with more than 7,000 mission stations, more than 14,000 organized churches, more than 1,550,000 converts in these churches; with 95 colleges and universities, with a student population greater than that of Germany, and almost as great as the combined university population of Canada and Great Britain.

#### THE MORAL RESOURCES OF THE CHURCH.

IV. I have spoken of these things to get rid of them. . . . I would rather stand on the side of one truth than have all these other resources at my side. What are all these things, the money, the men, the machinery, in comparison with the moral resources that are now at the disposal of the Christian Church?