

World-Wide Young Methodism

XII. Young Methodism and World Conquest

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IN this scientific age, when all things are being put to the test, in this materialistic age, when the minds of so many are blinded by the material things of life, the Gospel of a present and conscious salvation, and a ministry and membership that bear testimony to these great facts of experience, and in their lives manifest the fruits of the Spirit, are the urgent needs of the Church both at home and abroad.

A new vision has undoubtedly come to the Churches in these later years; a new vision of the world's need; a new vision of the immediate urgency of this need; a new vision of the essential unity of all the branches of Christ's Church; a new vision of the desirability and practicability of co-operation and unity in world-wide evangelization; a new vision of a task not impossible or impracticable, but, by the grace of God, now both possible and practicable. If to-day Methodism is true to the spirit and vision of its founders, she will fling herself more fully than ever with whole-hearted abandon into this great work of "world-conquest." Let the youth of Methodism catch this spirit, let it fire their hearts, let a consciousness of their opportunity and responsibility inspire their lives. Men and women are made by responsibilities loyally and courageously undertaken; weaklings and cowards by responsibilities shirked; so in organizations and institutions. Nothing will so develop the strength and virility of young Methodism at home as the inspiration of the great task of world conquest loyally undertaken and energetically pursued. Let the task be undertaken in co-operation with other Churches; let our plans be adequate to meet the present world opportunity; let us bring to bear our best intelligence and the highest business capacity in executing these plans; let our gifts be commensurate with the world's needs.

We have our Missionary organizations within the Church. Let us not lose sight of the fact that the Church itself is a missionary organization, upon every member of which rests the responsibility for extending Christ's Kingdom. We may shrink it, but we cannot escape it. Let us endeavor to secure:—

1. A Missionary Committee in every church to work with the pastor in enlisting the entire membership in sympathy, in prayer, and in practical effort for world conquest.

2. A period of incisive missionary education in each church every year.

3. The adoption of the weekly basis for missionary offerings, instead of an annual or occasional collection.

4. An organized and complete personal canvass of every member of church and congregation once each year by groups of members.

These practical methods, which have been so strongly emphasized by the Laymen's Missionary Movement in North America, have, wherever intelligently and sympathetically adopted, greatly quickened missionary interest, awakened missionary enthusiasm, developed the missionary spirit, increased missionary contributions.

Let all our work be begun, undertaken and finished in the spirit of prayer; let us labor with whole-hearted consecration to Him, Who is our Head, even Christ. Let us go forth "into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," knowing that in this path of obedience we have His assurance, "lo, I am with you always."

M. R. ROWELL is one of the foremost leaders of Canadian Methodism. He had been most intimately associated with the growth of our organized Young People's work, and was the mover of the historic resolution whereby the General Conference, at London, in 1894, made the Epworth League the official Young People's Society of our Church. The wisdom of this action has been fully demonstrated by subsequent history. Mr. Rowell, as Leader of the Liberal Party in the Ontario Legislature, is making the curtailment of the Liquor Traffic one of his principal aims, and his "Banish the Bar" policy appeals to every Christian patriot as pre-eminently for his country's good.



NEWTON W. ROWELL.

Methodism is essentially missionary in its spirit and outlook. As a Church, it grew out of the marvellously successful home mission work of John Wesley and his co-laborers among the masses of England, but it could not stop there. The men who had experienced the new birth, and rejoiced in a consciousness of sins forgiven, could not but sing:—

"Oh, that the world might taste and see
The riches of His grace,
The arms love that compass me,
Would all mankind embrace."

John Wesley had a vision of the world's need, and he defined for all time the field of operations of the Methodist Church when he declared "the world is my parish."

Cooke caught the vision and became "The Foreign Minister of Methodism." The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at the memorable Christmas Conference held in the City of Baltimore, U.S.A., in 1784. To this conference came William Black, a layman, from the eastern part of Canada, to ask the conference to send missionaries to minister to the scattered groups of Methodists which he, as a layman, had gathered together in Nova Scotia. Black's missionary appeal so aroused and inspired the enthusiastic soul of Dr. Cooke that he went forth from the conference as the Missionary Apostle of Methodism to arouse the Methodism of both continents to the responsibility for world-wide evangelization. He founded the Methodist missions in Wales, Ireland, the West Indies, Africa and Asia. It has been said of him that he represented "in his own person down to his death the whole missionary operations of Methodism as their officer and almost sole director, lavishing upon them his vast

fortune. He gave more money to religion than any other Methodist, if not any other Protestant, of his time." We have all read of the death of the aged veteran at sea while on his way as a missionary himself to the East, and of how the great heart which embraced all humanity in love and sympathy, found a fitting resting place on the bosom of the mighty ocean. To-day there is no continent and scarce an island of the sea, which has not been blessed through the agency of the Methodist Churches and Missionary organizations which he helped found.

While the various branches of Methodism throughout the world have done much toward the work of world conquest, while the other Christian Churches have also done much, by far the larger part of the world parish is still unoccupied. It has been truly stated that "two out of three people in the world live in non-Christian nations; two out of three people in the non-Christian nations are beyond the reach of the present combined missionary agencies of Christendom, and in spite of these appalling needs, about two out of three of the church members of North America are contributing nothing towards the aggressive missionary work of the Church at home and abroad."

Special Notices

Just as we are going to press a personal letter comes to hand from Rev. W. B. Fitzgerald, General Secretary of the Wesley Guild of British Wesleyan Methodism, informing us of the good prospect he has for supplying our readers with an article for our January issue from the pen of that eminent British scholar, the Rev. James Hope Moulton, M.A., D.Litt., D.D., of Didsbury College. This will be welcome intelligence to our readers, and we hope to be able to assure them next month that arrangements have been perfected whereby these Messages to World-wide Young Methodism shall be continued through 1913. Thus the largest fellowship of the Methodist host all round the globe may be increased and intensified.

We shall also present in the January number a special setting of Scenes prepared in the form of an extended dialogue for a number of persons, describing the story of Queen Esther. This was all ready for this issue, but the pressure of other and timely articles prevented our giving it the prominence it merits; hence its withdrawal until January. Look out for it! It will make a very fine Literary and Social Evening for your League, and with care and attention will be exceedingly popular and instructive.

A number of other splendid articles to gether with reports of District Conventions are necessarily held over until January. This month's issue will be found both seasonable and attractive we hope; but rest assured that the first number of 1913 will be unsurpassed by any of its predecessors. Give the Editor the place it deserves in your home and League, and make sure that your subscription list for 1913 is early and fully renewed.

Bow thy head and pray

*That while thy brother starves to-day
Thou mayest not eat thy bread at ease;
Pray that no health or wealth or peace
May hold thy soul while the world lies
Suffering, and claims thy sacrifice.*