

"And yet these ten millions are to be sought out, and if possible won from their unbelief and opposition to Christ, and brought into communion with his people.

"A vast and difficult work is this: many of them in addition to the inherent opposition of the natural heart to holiness, have learned the objections to Christianity so prevalent in this day, and are ever ready to adduce the faults of professors and the divisions of the church into many sects, as adequate reasons why they should reject, or at least neglect the great salvation. Many of the unsaved in thirst for wild adventure, or in the more absorbing thirst for gold, have sought homes in the boundless plains and mountain ranges near the Pacific, where, except in a few centres, the established churches cannot reach them for many years to come.

"What means will speedily and effectually bring the gospel to bear upon these ten million hearts, is perhaps the most vital question Christians can ask in this day. No pressure of other duties can relieve Christ's blood-bought children in this land from laboring to save them. This is our first, highest, and until fully attempted, chief work.

"What agencies shall we employ hopefully in this great and urgent business.

"We answer, it must be *Christ-like in spirit*. It will not do to go to these careless, or callous, or openly irreligious ones, with half-hearted zeal or a narrow sectarian purpose, and attempt to win them to one's own particular party in religion. Many of them have cut themselves off from all intercourse with Christian people, because of the divisions observed among good men; and they are keen-eyed to detect any selfish or unworthy motive in the one who would lead them in a new way. Love for souls for the soul's sake, and love to the Redeemer of souls, must be the impelling motive with those who would evangelize these outside and hardened sinners.

"Again, the agency to reach and save the unevangelized in our land must be *persistently aggressive*. These men are standing outside of the ordinary channels of religious influence. They keep away from good men and good surroundings as much as possible. Vast numbers of them live beyond the reach of sanctuary privileges, and if reached at all successfully, it must be by an aggressive effort which will carry the missionary into many a dark ally, over many a rough mountain, through many a gloomy forest. And this aggression must be persistent; for not one visit nor two will avail in many cases to arrest the hardened wanderer and turn him from his downward course.

"And the agency must be both *startling and permanent*. Startling, because so many of these ten millions are gospel hardened, so many backsliders, so many avowed unbelievers. They must be awaked and called as by the sound of a trumpet, or they will sleep on till death ends their probation. And permanence of effort in the agency employed is no less vital, because large numbers reached thus will have no other impulse Godward for months, perhaps years to come, except what is thus sent to them.

"With such an instrumentality, Christ-like in Spirit, aggressive in form, awakening in character, great numbers of the unevangelized can be saved. *Union Missionary Colportage* is such an agency. It is eminently broad-hearted in the spirit with which it goes to the wanderers from Jesus. It has no selfish ends to compass, but seeks to win souls to Christ in Christ's name and only for his sake. Under this one great impulse, it is ever pressing out into the waste places and calling upon men to be reconciled to God.

"And this colportage is persistent in its aggressiveness, because it knows that not else will the unevangelized be brought to the Saviour. If it fail to reach and save them, with its commission to go into every nook and corner of the land, into every hut in the forest, every tent among the miners, every coalshaft on the mountain-side, every cabin on the wide prairie—who else will seek them out and carry access to many else unapproachable: and as it is not only 'Christianity on wheels,' but Christianity on horseback, and Christianity on foot, it can go anywhere where men with souls have gone, and can stay and press upon them the commands of God.

"And herein lies its awakening power. The living voice is the most effective instrument for arresting attention, calling out thought, and waking emotion; and when employed by deeply devoted colporteurs to plead for Christ in the ears of the

impenitent, one hour as a daily, hourly careless from their

"Nor is this impenitent house companion will remain to end thus rendering away in an hour.

during the last two eleven millions of the great salvation

"Such is *Union* has had an effect in the lay members of

As we cannot always the new developments

quarter of a century when colportage was

tent, dormant. The intrusted and left to body of believers re-

sibility of communication

"When colportage fear and suspicion, laboring for souls.

in 1842, when the question, a preacher who

be introducing a new not according to know

the cause of Christianity house when the suggestion

turned to the pulpit the impetuous and e-

Medad from prophetic prophets, and that of

comment closed the gave the sanction of

into active efforts in

"The colporteurs ligent, discreet, and a

great mass of the people inspired with a burning

save, they have traveled the highways and local, personal labors,

to Christian hearts. thus presented to them

ample. Schemes for organized. The power

began to be developed tions, the organized effort

of Christian activity, vast efficiency as never instrumentality, the direct

be overlooked. "Another of the best

great increase of religious United States, now so

growth of the last fifty book printing in the United

Last year the cost for that amount.