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※ COMING CONQUESTS ※

“I HAVE a great conviction and a great faith that we are to see, in the near coming years, an unparalleled growth in our Church. The battle lines are forming by our hosts, which have sometimes seemed to be chiefly occupied, and apparently content, with the routine of the camp, with the efficiency of the quartermaster's department and the bounties of the mess table, and with the pride and circumstance of the parade and general review. But Methodism is awakening. We are not to be simply gold-laced softlings, whose only glory is that our fathers were soldiers and conquerors. We are to fight, and we will win victories that will rise to the level of our great traditions. Our leaders must lead, or be put aside for those who will. We are to demonstrate before the eyes of the world that Christianity is not decadent, that militant faith is not dead. We shall conquer men. Our task is not to build more imposing structures, to attain to prouder standing among the forces of the world, but to enlarge the Kingdom of God by increasing the number of those who are filled with the Christ-life and who walk according to the Gospel of the Son of God. We must not be satisfied with any meretricious success. There is no success for the Church that is not represented by genuine Christian character and the fruits of the Spirit. May God grant that we may add to our numbers every year a half million, but let them be people who know Christ and the power of His resurrection. In the accomplishment of this great end I am persuaded that the Sunday School must play a great part; and I am confident that the two main lines along which the Sunday School will attain its greatest victories are the two which I have been endeavoring to define—the intelligent and thorough teaching of the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and the faithful spiritual preservation of the children of the Church, and their religious nurture and education.”—*John T. McFarland, D.D.*