

"Make disciples of all the nations," just as evidently implies that Christian workers are to convert the peoples of all lands into followers of Christ. That the disciples were commended to *disciple* is clear not only from the command itself, but also from what follows, where provision is made for the baptism and instruction of the disciples.

"Baptizing them," indicates the place that baptism holds in the New Dispensation, as following discipline-making, and signifies also that a public profession is expected on the part of every disciple.

"Teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you," means the organization into churches of the disciples with provision for proper instruction in Christian doctrine and duty.

Such then is the Commission, comprehensive in scope, yet explicit in statement. That Christ has a right to issue such a Commission is clear from the announcement that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given unto Him. That His followers have no occasion to hesitate at its fulfilment is made equally clear in the closing words of promise. "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

II UNFULFILLED.

As thus understood it can scarcely be maintained that the Commission has been fulfilled. For certainly the Christian Church has not made disciples of all the nations, such, for instance, as the nations of India, or of China, or of Japan, or of Africa. The nations of heathendom are commonly estimated at 1,000,000,000, while the disciples made among these during the century by the entire missionary force fall considerably below 1,000,000. One disciple made to 1,000 of the people cannot, in any fair sense, be considered a fulfilment of the Commission.

The Protestant communicants of the world are estimated at 30,000,000, and even supposing all these to be true disciples, there would be, therefore, after more than eighteen centuries of Christian work, but 30,000,000 disciples out of a world's population of 1,500,000,000. In India, out of a population of 260,000,000, not more than 175,000 have been disciplined. In China, out of a population of 400,000,000, not more than 50,000 have been disciplined. In Japan, out of a population of 35,000,000, not more than 30,000 have been disciplined. In Africa, out of a population exceeding 200,000,000, not more than 120,000 have been disciplined.

Moreover *whole* nations remain unevangelized. In Annam, out of a population bordering on 20,000,000, no disciples have been made. So also in Afghanistan with a population of 8,000,000, so also in Tibet, Mongolia, and Arabia, so also in the Soudan of the Niger with its 50,000,000, the Soudan of Lake Tschad with its 35,000,000, the Soudan of the Nile with its 10,000,000.

In the countries named as occupied, vast reaches of territory remain *untouched to this day* with the Gospel. Thus the great Congo valley has been touched on the more hem, so that a very few out of its 30,000,000 have been reached. Thus also in China, more than 1,000 counties, aggregating millions of souls, and in India tracts of country equalling London nearly in population, remain unoccupied.

While, therefore, such a destitution prevails; while nations remain unevangelized; while but an almost *unappreciable* ratio of the great populations of India, China, and Africa has been disciplined; while the great world religions — Brahminism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Islamism remain almost *intact and whole*; while 1,000,000,000 of the race grope in spiritual darkness, of whom 20,

000,000 pass away every year into a still deeper — an eternal darkness — it cannot be said that the Commission of Christ has been fulfilled.

III PRESENT MEANS EMPLOYED INADEQUATE TO EFFECT SPEEDY FULFILMENT

The combined missionary force at work in foreign lands does not exceed 7,000, so that to every missionary, to every missionary's wife, to every lady missionary, there is a parish of 150,000 souls, while to every ordained missionary there is twice that number, 300,000, equalling the population of a large city. At this proportion, Canada would have 20 ordained workers, the United States 200, and Great Britain and Ireland 100, in all 320 ordained ministers to meet the wants of their respective people aggregating nearly 100,000,000.

But instead of such a forlorn hope, there is the grand imposing force of *one hundred and twenty-seven thousand* ordained ministers, assisted by *ten times* that number of efficient workers, and supported by a large Christian community. Canada alone has 7,000 ordained pastors to minister to the wants of her 5,000,000, that is, more than *twice* the number of all the ordained foreign missionaries in heathen lands. Great Britain and Ireland have ten times, and the United States twenty times as many. One hundred and twenty-seven thousand ordained ministers to the 100,000,000 of these Christian lands, and little more than 3,000 ordained workers for the 1,000,000,000 of perishing souls in Asia, Africa, and the islands of the sea. In other words there are *four hundred* ordained pastors in Christian lands, to every *one* on foreign shores, while there are *six hundred* Christian workers to every *one* abroad. It is, moreover, estimated that 98 dol. (or £20 8s. 4d.) are expended on work in Christian lands, to every 2 dol. (or 8s. 4d.) sent to the foreign field.

Is there then an excess of men and funds in Christian lands? What is the cry? *More men, more money* indeed it is almost a struggle for existence in the larger cities. What with Romanism, Ritualism, Rationalism, Socialism, Communism, Nihilism, Scepticism, and infidelity, intemperance and sensuality, ignorance and superstition, materialism, and anarchy, what with constant influxes of peoples until the waymarks are nearly carried away, what with the Indian and Chinese and other internal irruptions, Christian workers find it difficult to keep aloft. The call for additional laborers is so loudly made and so keenly felt that *special schools are being opened to train them*.

And are there no difficulties on foreign shores that so small a force is dispatched to disciple the heathen nations? Ah, faster than the word of life speed the poisons that kill body and soul. German, and English, and American infidelity find an open field and a ready soil, while the deadly and inhuman *rum* traffic blights worse than slavery, and the opium traffic *dumms* its millions. Alas, if the need is great in Christian lands it is indescribable abroad — *yes, a thousand times more pressing*.

Japan alone calls for every foreign worker we have, while China needs five times as many, not to mention India and Africa. The need is as great as the value of perishing souls, and as deep as nineteen centuries of neglect, and as urgent as the cry of 20,000,000 of the perishing every year can make it. The means at present employed *inadequate* — 7,000 ordained, lay, and lady missionaries, 30,000 native helpers; and 10,000,000 dollars to disciple the nations of heathendom. *Such is the out-put of laborers; such the funds contributed; such the response made to the Commission of the Divine Christ!*