

the building of the great Russian railroad within the borders. Last year the Soudan, so long her stronghold of Madhism, broke before the sweep of Kitchener. To-day she is in full touch with all the molifying influences of British colonization. Do we not see the same higher hand in Africa at work to-day? Before the notorious march of Roberts the Boer strongholds will be swept away, strongholds that, if we are to believe Livingstone, have been most inimicable to Christ. We have seen the same Providence in South America where God seems to be preparing the way for Protestantism by removing the intolerance of Bolivia. Verily we are living in momentous times, momentous because with a high hand God seems to be breaking down the barriers that so long resisted His might and is bringing into co-operation with the missionaries preaching many of those gracious influences that adorn our Christian motherland and home.

*Second, "Our Organization."* A little more than one hundred years ago there were no societies organized for sending missionaries to foreign lands. In some cases, men, whose hearts were aflame with missionary fire, were dissuaded by the churches from risking their lives in such perilous undertakings. Those who became missionaries depended on private support. Organization is necessary for efficient as well as extensive work. In evidence of this we have only to be reminded of the transformation wrought by Kitchener upon his arrival in Africa. Through his untiring attention directed to the smallest minutiae, the English force has become so mobile that it can outflank and manœuvre to the utter dismay of the Boers. Likewise, in the conflict with evil in the dark lands wise organizers are required. We have now our Baptist Missionary Societies well adapted for the oversight and control of mission work with such an efficient working force composed of Board of Managers, Executive Committees, and the various secretaries and officers. Then, there are the conventions where representatives from different societies meet, and through their conference obtain new methods of work. At the beginning of 1800 who would have conceived of such a Conference as that held in New York this April? Organization now must be perfected not only in each denomination but among Evangelical bodies as united, in order to speedily carry the Gospel to all people of every nation.

*Third, "Education."* We are now supplied with a fund of information concerning missions. Our Mission Circles, though of comparatively short existence, are now in almost every church. The boys and girls in our Sunday-schools, through the Mission Band training, have their tender sympathies aroused for the children in the slavery of heathenism. What a source of knowledge are our mission libraries which are becoming so extensive; also the missionary courses of study so carefully prepared for our denominational

papers! We obtain a great deal of information through conventions and conferences. Especially will this be true of the Ecumenical Conference this spring. We are also privileged to meet with missionaries themselves who have been in personal contact with the souls that dwell in utter darkness. Accounts of their real experience bring the distant heathen very near and burden our hearts and personal responsibility for their salvation.

Missionary intelligence comes to us on every side. The sources are abundant. While in the past Christian inactivity in this line was due to a great extent, to ignorance of the needs and possibilities of missionary effort, now, if such inactivity remains it can only be laid at the door of a selfish heart seared-so-as-by-fire Christianity. Through education a change has been wrought in the Christian church. Her heart has been touched to give the mite of self-sacrifice. Knowledge is power since it has also brought to her a realization of the majesty and the dignity of her enterprise.

*Fourth, "Inspiration."* While, as said above, the churches once discouraged men from the perils of foreign missionary undertakings, now their joy is to send forth and help support men and women from their own numbers. It is the same in the home. How many consecrated mothers are now praying that their sons or daughters may devote themselves to the grand life-work of the Gospel missionary! It is the highest aspiration of many a parent. Who knows how much many of our missionaries and most earnest Christian workers owe to the gracious influence and inspiration of a Christian home? How changed also is the attitude of young men toward missions! The best men of our country, graduating from universities and medical colleges turn to mission fields as the place where they can do the noblest work of their life. Our whole thought of mission life has changed. It is, in the opinion of the Christian world, a noble, heroic, self-sacrificing life. It calls for the best men and the best that is in men.

*Fifth, "Fortification."* At the beginning of the century how very few there were ready to give their lives to Foreign Missions? One here, one there, called perhaps an eccentric few. Now, behold the multitude of young men! Think of the Student Volunteer Movement, world-wide! Hundreds upon hundreds of young men only waiting an opportunity to go to India, China, Japan, Africa, and every dark spot where souls are perishing. Our laborers are many, and if discouragement arises as we contemplate the lack of means to send them, we are met by a new source of encouragement on the field. The number of our missionaries needed will decrease with the increase of conversions. Trained natives understanding their own people are the best preachers. It is true even now that the majority of preachers in India are natives. The duty of the missionary is becoming